

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment**

**Browns Park Road Realignment (UTU-85070)  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112-EA**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 781-4400  
(435) 781-4410



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Prepared by  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vernal, Utah**



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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

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## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

On December 28, 2014, Daggett County filed an application to amend the Title V road right-of-way (ROW) for an existing class "B" county road known as Brown's Park Road (County road system #1364). This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of the Brown's Park Road realignment and reconstruction project as proposed by Daggett County. This road has historically been maintained by the County.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1 508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI). A FONSI statement is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in "significant" environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (October 2008). If the decision maker determines that this project has "significant" impacts following the analysis in the EA, an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

### **1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:**

Realignment of Brown's Park Road

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112-EA

### **1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:**

Salt Lake Meridian, Daggett County, Utah

T. 3 N., R. 24 E.,

sec. 21, S2SW,

sec. 25, SWNW, N2SW, SESW,

sec. 26, SENE,

sec. 28, NWNE, NENW.

### **1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:**

Lead Office - U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Vernal Field Office

and number LLUTG01110

170 South 500 East

Vernal, Utah 84078

Phone: (435) 781-4400

Fax: (435) 781-3420

**1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:**

2800

Case file numbers: UTU-85070

**1.1.5. Applicant Names:**

Daggett County

95 North 1st West

P.O. Box 219

Manila, Utah 84046

**1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) need is to consider approval of the application. BLM's purpose is to avoid or reduces impacts on sensitive resource values associated with the project area and prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

Daggett County's need is to make improvements to Daggett County Road #1364 (Brown's Park Road) to provide safe access to the Clay Basin gas operation, recreational access to the Green River and for area residents.

**1.3. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plans:**

This EA was prepared by the BLM in accordance with NEPA of 1969 and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, U.S. Department of Interior requirements and guidelines listed in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1. This EA assesses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows ROWs on public lands in accordance with the Realty Decisions. It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with any decisions throughout the plan.

*Chapter 1 Introduction*

*Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:*

In May 1997 the Utah BLM published *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM Lands in Utah* (BLM 1997). These standards for rangeland health were developed to ensure that various services, activities, and all renewable resources of the land are environmentally sustainable, and that non-renewable resources are recovered in ways that ensure the long-term health of the land managed by the BLM. The Proposed Action and alternatives carried through in this assessment are consistent with these standards. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, natural ecosystems, and water quality.



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## **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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## 2.1. Alternative A — Proposed Action:

### Introduction

The proposed project consists of reconstructing two areas of the existing roadway to improve the horizontal alignment of the roadway to meet design standards and improve safety. The roadway currently serves a vital year round role in providing access to the Clay Basin gas operations, recreational access to the Jarvie Historical site and the Green River and for area residents.

The proposed realignment of the roadway would be 30-feet wide on tangents with widening on curves. The western location would be reconstructed for 2,575-feet (0.49 miles) and the eastern location would be reconstructed for 2,845-feet (0.54 miles) for a total length of 5,420-feet (1.02 miles). This proposed realignment and reconstruction would amend the existing Browns Park Road, UTU-85070.

Traffic volumes are approximately 200 ADT and expected to increase to 300 ADT in twenty years with an estimate of 10% heavy trucks. The roadway is currently and would continue to be used year round. The roadway originates in Wyoming as it connects to US-191 and continues in an easterly direction where it connects to US-40 in Colorado. Alternate access into the area is limited and requires a lengthy detour. The existing roadway needs to be maintained and the existing curves do not meet design standards. There is insufficient ROW (ROW) to improve the geometrics of the roadway. Several alignment alternatives were evaluated including the alignment presented in the approved Environmental Impact Statement dated March 2006. The proposed alignment was deemed to be the one that created the least impact to the natural and built environment, did not impact private property, and reduced overall cost.

### ROW Location

The western alignment is located at:

Salt Lake Meridian, Daggett County, Utah

T. 3 N., R. 24 E.,

sec. 21, S2SW,

sec. 28, NWNE, NENW.

And the eastern alignment is located at:

Salt Lake Meridian, Daggett County, Utah

T. 3 N., R. 24 E.,

sec. 25, SWNW, N2SW, SESW,

sec. 26, SENE.

Appendix A contains a general location map and 1:4,000 maps of each location. Plan sheets are located in Appendix B.



**Table 2.1. Summary of Disturbance**

	<b>Proposed Western Alignment</b>	<b>Proposed Eastern Alignment</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Proposed ROW requested permanent disturbance	1.773	1.960	<b>3.733</b>
Proposed ROW temporary construction disturbance	2.227	3.215	<b>5.442</b>
Portion of the existing ROW to be reclaimed	3.719	1.700	<b>5.419</b>

**Design**

The road segments would be constructed to AASHTO 2010 Geometric Design Standard and Utah Department of Transportation 2012 Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction for a 40 mph design speed with a maximum super elevation of 6%. The maximum grade for the road would be 8.0% and the maximum pitch of the road would be 6%.

Daggett County plans to gravel the surface for the immediate future. In the future Daggett County may submit an application to pave the road.

During construction the existing ROW would be maintained to accommodate traffic. Construction operations would be mainly within the new or existing ROW; however, some additional temporary use areas may be needed to construct the cuts and fills and to realign existing drainages as shown on the existing plans. If these areas are on BLM administered lands, Daggett County would need to gain approval from the BLM Authorized Officer prior to utilization.

**Additional Components**

The contractor would be responsible for obtaining sand and gravel supplies for this project. Equipment and materials would be stored within the existing or new ROW

**Agencies Involved**

A joint US Army Corps of Engineering and Utah State Engineers stream alteration permit application is being applied for. The application requests the channel realignment and the culvert reconstruction.

**Construction**

The project would involve excavating approximately 35,500 cubic yards of material which would be used for fill material. Approximately 26,300 cubic yards of fill material, 2,060 cubic yards of Untreated Base Course, and 300 cubic yards of riprap would be imported onto the project site. The work would be done with graders, dozers, track hoes and trucks. Approximately 1,433 semi-truck loads would be required to haul in the material to the project site.

The roadway would be constructed using graders, dozers, track hoes and compacters to clear, grub, grade and compact the roadway and to install the culverts.

It is anticipated that approximately two to six construction people would be present on the project. This number may increase and decrease during various stages of the project. In addition to the construction personnel, there could be a full time inspector, survey crew at various times and a materials tester as needed. Each person would have a vehicle.



The ROW would be staked or flagged before the beginning of construction. The area of the ROW would be cleared of vegetation. The grade would be excavated and backfilled as needed so that the roadway material transported in would produce the correct grade and width for the roadway.

The new ROW would be cleared, material excavated and moved to produce the designed grade, new culverts would be installed, and the base and gravel would be placed on the roadway. Once traffic is shifted to the new roadway, the old roadway would be obliterated and the old roadway and slopes would be seeded. The old roadway would be used and maintained during the construction process to allow access to the ROW and during the construction of the new roadway.

OSHA and Utah Department of Transportation safety requirements for roadway construction would be followed. A safety officer would be on site at all times during construction. Weekly safety meetings would be held.

All industrial wastes and toxic substances would be contained in a restricted area and disposed of at an offsite permitted disposal facility.

All work to install the culverts would be done during periods of no or low flows. The project would be constructed in the spring/summer of 2014 and is expected to last no longer than 4 months.

### **Resource Values and Environmental Concerns**

There are no anticipated impacts to any existing corridors in the area. It is anticipated that this project would not impact any resources or create a public health and safety concern. There would be an increase in dust and construction equipment exhaust during the grading operations of the roadway. These impacts would be minimal and temporary.

### **Stabilization and Rehabilitation**

Soil stabilization would be achieved by compaction of disturbed areas and reseeding of disturbed areas. Riprap basins would be constructed at the outlet of each culvert.

All vegetation removed as part of the construction would be disposed of by the contractor off site.

Reseeding of disturbed areas would be with the attached seed schedule. Wood fiber mulch would be placed over the seeded areas to assist in the seed germination. No other fertilizer would be used.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Daggett County would maintain the roadway as part of their road maintenance in the area. Daggett County would continue to provide snow removal. There would not be any seasonal closures and no control of access. The safety of the public would be increased after the realignment of the roadway with this project.

It is anticipated there would not be any industrial wastes and toxic substances on this project after construction.

Inspections of the roadway would be conducted by Daggett County personnel as part of their maintenance operations. Maintenance would be done as needed. The roadway would be maintained during the summer and winter months as required. Maintenance work would be done during the day unless conditions require otherwise.

Fire control is not required or included as part of the project anticipated. Maintenance and operation costs are included in Daggett County's annual road budget. Maintenance would be grading of the roadway as needed.

### **Termination and Restoration**

In the event the road is abandoned, the road would be obliterated and regraded, the culverts would be removed and the channels reshaped to blend in the surrounding area. The riprap at the end of the culverts within the channels would be left in place. The area would be seeded and mulched with an BLM approved seed mixture.

## **2.2. Alternative B — No Action:**

Under the Alternative B, Daggett County's proposed project involving federal land would not be authorized. An amended federal access would be denied, thus Daggett County's plan would not be realized. Daggett County could still utilize the existing ROW for the Brown's Park road; however they would not be allowed to realign the road on federal land. As such, the No Action Alternative would not cause any new surface disturbance. Ongoing management of federal land within the project area would continue at current trends.

## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment:**

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The Interdisciplinary Team Checklist provides a brief description of the affected environment. The affected environment and environmental consequences of the alternatives were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in Appendix C. The analysis indicates that resources of concern are either not present in the project area, or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. The analysis and rationale for this conclusion is provided in Appendix C. The below information describes the current state of the potentially affected resources in the project area.

### **3.1. Alternative A — Proposed Action:**

#### **3.1.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate**

Greater sage-grouse are listed as a federal candidate species. These birds inhabit sagebrush foothills, plains, and mountain slopes where sagebrush is dominant (Nature Serve 2014). Sage-grouse require large expanses of sagebrush with good under stories of forbs and grasses for nutrition and shelter. Factors involved in the decline in both the distribution and abundance of sage-grouse include permanent loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush-steppe habitat throughout the western states including Utah (Heath et al. 1996, Braun 1998). Sage-grouse populations have declined (approximately 80%) from the mid-1960's to mid-1980's throughout much of the western states. Research and conservation efforts throughout the last twenty years have helped stabilize and recover many populations (UDWR 2014a).

In January of 2005, the USFWS completed a status review for greater sage-grouse and other numerous petitions. The status review was published "not warranted." In December 2007 the court remanded the decision on the combined greater sage-grouse petitions and required a new status review to be published by December 2008. The USFWS failed to publish the new status review and agreed with petitioners to publish the review by February 26, 2010. The USFWS announced that the greater sage-grouse listing is warranted, but precluded by the need to address higher priority species first. (73 FR 10218)

It is estimated that the proposed road alignment would disturb approximately 9.175 acres of Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH). The county proposed to reclaim approximately 5.419 acres. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and the BLM has identified the project area as being within occupied sage-grouse habitat and located approximately 1 mile from the Clay Basin Lek.

#### **3.1.2. Soils and Vegetation**

The soils in the proposed area have been identified by the NRCS as being Blazon-Delphill complex on 6 – 30 percent slopes that derive from alluvium from sandstone and shale's in the area. These soils are typically clay loam type soils with high alkaline properties (NRCS, 2014). The typical soil profile in this proposed area is 0-12 inches of strongly alkaline, clay loams with weathered bedrock around 12- 22 inches (NRCS, 2014). Depth to the restrictive features in the area is 8-20 inches, which is usually just para-lithic bedrock or unaltered bedrock (NRCS, 2014). The soils are typically low to moderate in the ability to transmit water since most of the profiles are clay type soils (NRCS, 2014). Clay type soils typically have slower infiltration rates than sandier soils because permeability is lower in clay material (sand grains have more room within pore spaces of the sediment to transmit water). These soils have also been identified as being



saline, typical in alkaline soils. These soils will also be highly prone to erosion during flood type events, since most of the area has low precipitation rates and many ephemeral channels. Since the soils are low permeability they tend to flashflood and flush sediments towards major drainage sinks in the area, like the Red Creek and Green River.

Vegetation in the Project Area is representative of mountain shrub, desert shrub, and pinyon-juniper communities. Dominant vegetation in the Project area includes two-needle pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), black greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), little Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), and Gardner saltbush (*Atriplex gardneri*).

### 3.1.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health

The Proposed Action would occur within the Clay Basin allotment. The allotment is comprised of 13,467 acres. Of those acres, 11,169 are public lands administered by the BLM and 160 acres are private land. These acres account for, respectively, 845 AUMs and 146 AUMs. The proposed action would occur within a salt-desert shrub, sage steppe to pinyon juniper communities. Livestock operations are impacted by the current level of oil and gas development within the Clay Basin allotment. Season of use is from 6/1 to 6/30 and from 10/1 to 11/30. The allotment is operated under the open range law which requires those who wish to exclude livestock from their lands or facilities to fence livestock out. Therefore, livestock can access the road and increase the likelihood of vehicular accidents. Livestock currently use the Red Creek Bridge regularly and are commonly seen standing on the bridge. Typically, at the beginning and end of the season, cattle are hauled in and out from respective allotments by truck, however; throughout the grazing season the cattle are trailed/herded to the various pastures within the allotment.

Rangeland Health Assessments were conducted in three locations on Clay Basin during the 2013 summer. The evaluation has not been completed. None of the sites are within five hundred feet of the Proposed Action.

### 3.1.4. Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The relevant and important values for the Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is a the regionally significant critical watershed. The RMP decision for this ACEC is to manage the watershed to continue the reduction of sedimentation into Red Creek and the downstream Green River by stabilizing channels and stream banks to lessen erosion and by maintaining or increasing vegetation cover throughout the watershed and enhance wildlife values. The existing environment for soils is described in the soils/vegetation section above. The existing environment for wildlife is described in the wildlife section above.

## **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:**

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This chapter describes the direct and indirect impacts that would be expected to occur upon the implementation of each of the considered alternatives. It also discloses the expected cumulative impacts, which are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

## **4.1. Alternative A — Proposed Action:**

### **4.1.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate**

As stated in Chapter 3, greater sage-grouse are listed as a federal candidate species because of widespread losses of sagebrush habitat. It is anticipated that 9.175 acres would be disturbed with the construction of the road realignment. The surrounding area is highly disturbed with existing oil and gas infrastructure (i.e. roads, pipelines, well locations, storage yards, etc.). Impacts to the 3-Corners sage-grouse population under the Proposed Action Alternative are not anticipated to increase the level of habitat fragmentation within sage-grouse habitat given that the operator will reclaim disturbed areas. The Proposed Action Alternative is anticipated to have construction activities within 1 mile of the Clay Basin Lek. If activities occurred during the lekking season it is likely sage-grouse may utilize other habitats during the breeding season; however, given the below mitigation measures it is unlikely this would occur. The Proposed Action Alternative is in compliance with WO-IM-2012-043 as coordination with the UDWR and determinations between both agencies are complete (UDWR 2014b).

Overall, the Proposed Action Alternative is not anticipated to negatively affect greater sage-grouse and is not likely to result in a trend towards federal listing of the species.

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#### **4.1.1.1. Mitigation**

No surface disturbing activities would be allowed from March 1 – June 15 to minimize impacts during sage-grouse brooding periods.

### **4.1.2. Soils and Vegetation**

#### **4.1.2.1. Soils**

The Proposed Action would disturb approximately 2.0 acres of fragile clay type soils. Of this total, approximately 2.0 acres would be subject to final reclamation. This is a result of the company reclaiming the old brown park road that currently exists, which is expected to be approximately the same amount of acreage. If reclamation is successful, direct long-term impacts to vegetation would occur on 0 acres. If final reclamation is not successful, the entire 2.0 acres could remain disturbed for the long term. Long-term impacts to soils could then result, which will affect the stability of these fragile soils and the native vegetative communities in the area.

The project would contribute an estimated addition of 3.0 tons of soil per acre per year above the current natural erosion rate for the first year of development. After the first year, the soil erosion attributed to the project would reduce to 1.5 tons per acre per year until the access road



is fully reclaimed. Erosion rates are higher during the first year due to disturbance during the initial construction and the general moving of these fragile soils.

Direct impacts to soils include mixing of soil horizons, soil compaction, short-term loss of topsoil and site productivity, and loss of soil/topsoil through wind and water erosion. Loss of soil/topsoil in disturbed areas would reduce the re-vegetation success of seeded native species due to increased competition by annual weed species and then would result in a general increase in erosion rates higher than those observed by the NRCS. Annual weed species are adapted to disturbed conditions, and have less stringent moisture and soil nutrient requirements than do perennial native species. Bare soils would result in higher rates of germination of the invasive and noxious weed species in the area. This will then affect reclamation potentials, and the general health of the ecosystem. Impacts to soils would be partially mitigated by the below mitigation measures.

#### **4.1.2.2. Vegetation**

Vegetation community/land cover types would be directly affected by the construction of the road realignment in the Proposed Action. Direct effects would involve removal of native vegetation and previously reclaimed vegetation, resulting in a loss of productive forage and habitat for wildlife and grazing livestock. Indirect effects could result from loss of exposed soil materials with the loss of protective vegetative cover, which in turn could limit and/or delay future reestablishment of native vegetation and revegetation success as part of reclamation of disturbed areas.

Up to approximately 5.442 acres of native and reclaimed vegetation may be initially lost or damaged as part of Proposed Action implementation. With the appropriate application of final and interim reclamation measures, approximately 3.733 acres of disturbance would remain for the life-of-project within the boundaries of the road realignment corridor.

Interim reclamation of cleared areas would commence as soon as possible following completion of construction. In addition, the sections of the current road that are being realigned, approximately 5.419 acres, would undergo reclamation.

The applicant would apply appropriate reclamation measures that conform to the BLM's Green River District Reclamation Guidelines (BLM 2009). However, even with the timely application of these measures, the establishment of effective vegetative cover is expected to take between 5 and 10 years, based on monitoring of other reclaimed sites. In those portions of the Project Area where roots were left intact within the soil, vegetative cover would likely recover more quickly than in those areas where the vegetation including the roots were bladed from the construction zone and the soils were bladed and stockpiled ahead of construction. In either case, the application and maintenance of non-vegetative soil stabilizing measures for this period would be crucial to limiting accelerated erosion and maintaining a soil cover in which successful revegetation could occur.

#### **4.1.2.3. Mitigation**

1. The proponent would prepare a reclamation plan. This plan should be site specific, address the soil concerns, and have an emphasis on a native seed mix which reflects the native vegetation in the area.
2. The proponent would control noxious and invasive weeds by mechanical and chemical treatments to help reduce the bare ground cover and help reduce erosion rates until the site



can be reclaimed with native vegetation. If chemicals are going to be used a Pesticide Use Proposal shall be submitted to the Vernal BLM botanist for approval.

3. The proponent would design and implement storm water control mechanisms to help reduce the amount of erosion that will result from the surface disturbing action, and to keep all the sediment within the project area. Silt fencing and other techniques are recommended to help prevent soils leaving the site and flowing down gradient into the adjacent Red Creek or Clay Basin Creek and eventually the Green River.
4. Dirt work would only take place during dry conditions.
5. To the extent feasible, blading of vegetative cover should be minimized and root structures left intact.

### **4.1.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health**

The Proposed Action would be expected to increase the short-term loss of AUMs on the Clay Basin allotment. Reclamation is expected to reduce this loss in the long-term, but casual factors such as drought, invasive weeds due to disturbance and past reclamation efforts have proven that it is rare for a return to the pioneering community. Implementation of the Proposed Action would cause direct impacts on the range resources in the area. The largest direct impact would occur from the disturbance and loss/removal of some available forage in the Clay Basin allotment. Increase vehicular-livestock collisions may occur by the widening of the road and from the anticipated increase of traffic. Livestock movement patterns may be hindered by the wider road and by the Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario (RFAS) of pavement and possible increase in the speed limit.

Rangeland Health would not be expected to be altered by the Proposed Action alone.

#### **4.1.3.1. Mitigation**

*The stipulations from the Browns Park Road EIS (BLM, 2006) page 132 would apply to this project as well. If more than 14 vehicle-livestock collisions are reported by 2020, fencing might be necessary where the road traverses BLM rangelands.*

### **4.1.4. Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern**

Impacts to the relevant and important value of soil is addressed in the preceding soil section. Impacts to wildlife habitat are described in the preceding wildlife section.

## **4.2. Alternative B — No Action:**

### **4.2.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to greater sage-grouse from surface-disturbing activities. Current land use trends in the area would continue to occur, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use for hunting, bird watching, and sightseeing.



### **4.2.2. Soils and Vegetation**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to soils and vegetation from surface-disturbing activities associated with the construction of the road realignment. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use for hunting, bird watching, and sightseeing.

### **4.2.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health**

Under the No-Action alternative, no new disturbance would occur. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health would not be altered from the current state. Increase vehicular-livestock collisions may occur by the anticipated increase of traffic. Livestock movement patterns may be hindered by the existing road. No adverse impacts to Rangeland Health would be expected under the No-Action alternative.

#### **4.2.3.1. Mitigation**

*The stipulations from the Browns Park Road EIS (BLM, 2006) page 132 would apply to this project as well. If more than 14 vehicle-livestock collisions are reported by 2020, fencing might be necessary where the road traverses BLM rangelands.*

### **4.2.4. Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern**

Under the no action alternative no impacts would occur to the Red Creek ACEC.

## **4.3. Cumulative Impacts:**

Cumulative impacts are those impacts that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of which agency or person undertakes such other actions. The cumulative impacts analysis area (CIAA) varies by resource and will be defined in the section for each individual resource.

### **4.3.1. Alternative A — Proposed Action**

#### **4.3.1.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate**

The cumulative impact area for greater sage-grouse is approximately 71,036 acres of occupied sage-grouse habitat (all within the Preliminary Priority Habitat). The project would contribute to the loss of 9.175 acres of sage-grouse habitat following project activities. The surrounding area is highly fragmented with oil and gas infrastructure (i.e. roads, pipelines, well locations, yards storage); however, impacts to the 3-Corners sage-grouse population under the Proposed Action Alternative are not anticipated to increase the level of habitat fragmentation within sage-grouse habitat given the operator will reclaim disturbed areas.



#### 4.3.1.2. Soils and Vegetation

Analysis of the cumulative impacts is incorporated by reference to the existing document Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. For the purpose of cumulative impact analysis, the area considered is the boundary of the T3N, R24E and more specifically the area within this township and range known as the Red Creek ACEC, as it is defined in the Vernal RMP. Of this area 12,362 acres are open to oil and gas subject to moderate constraints, like timing limits and controlled surface use. Cumulative impacts on soils and vegetation typical of oil and gas field development include: removal of native vegetation and increased erosion rates of soils which are generally very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim due to the arid climate and the low organic content.

Cumulative actions within the T3N, R24E area include a number of producing and plugged oil and gas wells. There are also a number of roads within the area. This area is highly used by oil and gas companies and by the general public in getting access to those sections of the river. This proposal is to realign one of those roads inside this CIAA. Surface disturbance subject to constraints within the CIAA would be approximately 12,362 acres as defined in the Vernal RMP under the Red Creek ACEC section. The Proposed Action would add 2 acres of surface disturbance with the mitigation stated above to conform to the Vernal RMP. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Soil erosion would be increased due to the disturbance associated with oil and gas activities in the area. Each acre of disturbance adds to a cumulative effect by increasing erosion and destroying native vegetation, and through the invasion of undesired plant species. In general, soils in the Uinta Basin are very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim because of the arid climate and lack of organic material. Any disturbance no matter the size will affect soils and vegetation.

Direct surface disturbances to soils and vegetation are indicated by past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments are primarily attributable to oil and gas development and vegetation management by various federal agencies. Oil and gas development, however, would continue to degrade local habitat by direct disturbance and slow reclamation of disturbed areas. Surface disturbance subject to constraints within the cumulative impact area would be approximately 12,362 acres as defined in the Vernal RMP under the Red Creek ACEC section. The Proposed Action would add 2 acres of surface disturbance with mitigation.

#### 4.3.1.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health

The cumulative impact area for livestock grazing under the Proposed Action is the Clay Basin allotment. Current and past oil and gas development has reduced forage on the Clay Basin allotment. Reclamation techniques have not proven to offset the initial disturbance. Invasive weeds such as: halogeton, cheat grass and Russian thistle usually dominate disturbed sites within the cumulative impact area. Due to these factors, the livestock operator has not been able to operate at full carrying capacity, and a possibility of the loss of AUMs or a new rest rotation management plan, with the loss of either spring or fall grazing, is being analyzed in the ten-year permit renewal for the Clay Basin allotment. Livestock movement patterns have been affected due to the increase in roads, surface pipelines, well pads and typical infrastructure associated with oil and gas.. The current landscape within the CIAA is fragmented by this development. The proposed action would contribute...

#### **4.3.1.4. Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern**

Cumulative impacts under the proposed action are as described in the preceding soils and wildlife sections.

#### **4.3.2. Alternative B — No Action**

##### **4.3.2.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate**

The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

##### **4.3.2.2. Soils and Vegetation**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be accumulation of effects to soils and vegetation.

##### **4.3.2.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health**

The No Action alternative would not result in any changes to the accumulation of impacts to livestock forage.

##### **4.3.2.4. Red Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern**

The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

## **Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:**



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The proposed action was posted to the ePlanning NEPA Register with its assigned NEPA number on March 25, 2014. To date, no questions or comments have been received.

Notice letters were sent to other ROW holders adjacent to the proposed project area on May 15, 2014. Only one response to these letters was received by the hired engineering firm. The letter requests contact prior to construction. This letter is located in Appendix D.

A public comment period was not offered due to the proposed action being similar in nature to other projects in the immediate area.

**Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Lori Hunsaker, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Archaeology	National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation	No Cultural Resources Present in Project Area. "No Historic Properties Effectuated" 36CFR800.4(d)(1). SHPO Consultation completed 5/15/14.
Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Northwest Band Shoshone Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Goshute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Laguna Pueblo Tribe, Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Zia Pueblo Tribe and Navajo Nation	National Historic Preservation Act	No Native American concerns noted for this project. Tribal consultations completed 6/21/2014.
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Project located within the States' Sage-grouse Management Area and BLM's Preliminary Priority Habitat for sage-grouse.	In coordination with WO-2012-043 the BLM and UDWR are in agreement the proposed project would not negatively impact greater sage-grouse.

## 5.1. List of Preparers:

See Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist (Appendix C).

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## **Chapter 6. References:**



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## 6.1. References

BLM. 2006. Vernal Field Office Final EIS. Utah BLM, Vernal District, Final Environmental Impact Statement. Browns Park Road from Red Creek to Colorado State Line, Daggett County, Utah. FHWA-UT-EIS-04-02-F.

BLM. 2008. Vernal Field Office Final EIS. Utah BLM, Vernal District. Final Environmental Impact Statement Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision.

BLM. 2009. Green River District Reclamation Guidelines for Reclamation Plans, Instruction Memorandum 09-002, Green River District, Vernal, Utah.

Braun, C.E. 1998. Sage-grouse declines in western North America: what are the problems? Proceedings of the Western Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 78:139-156.

Heath, B., R. Straw, S. Anderson, and J. Lawson. 1996. Proceedings of the Greater Sage-grouse Workshop. Pinedale, WY.

Nature Serve. 2014. <http://www.natureserve.org>. Greater Sage-grouse. Nature Serve Explorer. Web accessed 13 March 2014.

NRCS, 2014 WSS System Soil Survey Query. Soil Survey Area: Henrys Fork Area Utah-Wyoming, parts of: Dagget and Summit Counties, Utah and Sweetwater and Unita Counties. Survey Area Date: Dec. 19th, 2013.

UDWR. 2014a. [Http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc](http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc). . Conservation Data Center. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Web accessed 13 March 2014.

UDWR. 2014b. (B.Maxfield (Sensitive Species Biologist), emails, 04 April. 2014).

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# **Appendix A. General Location Maps**

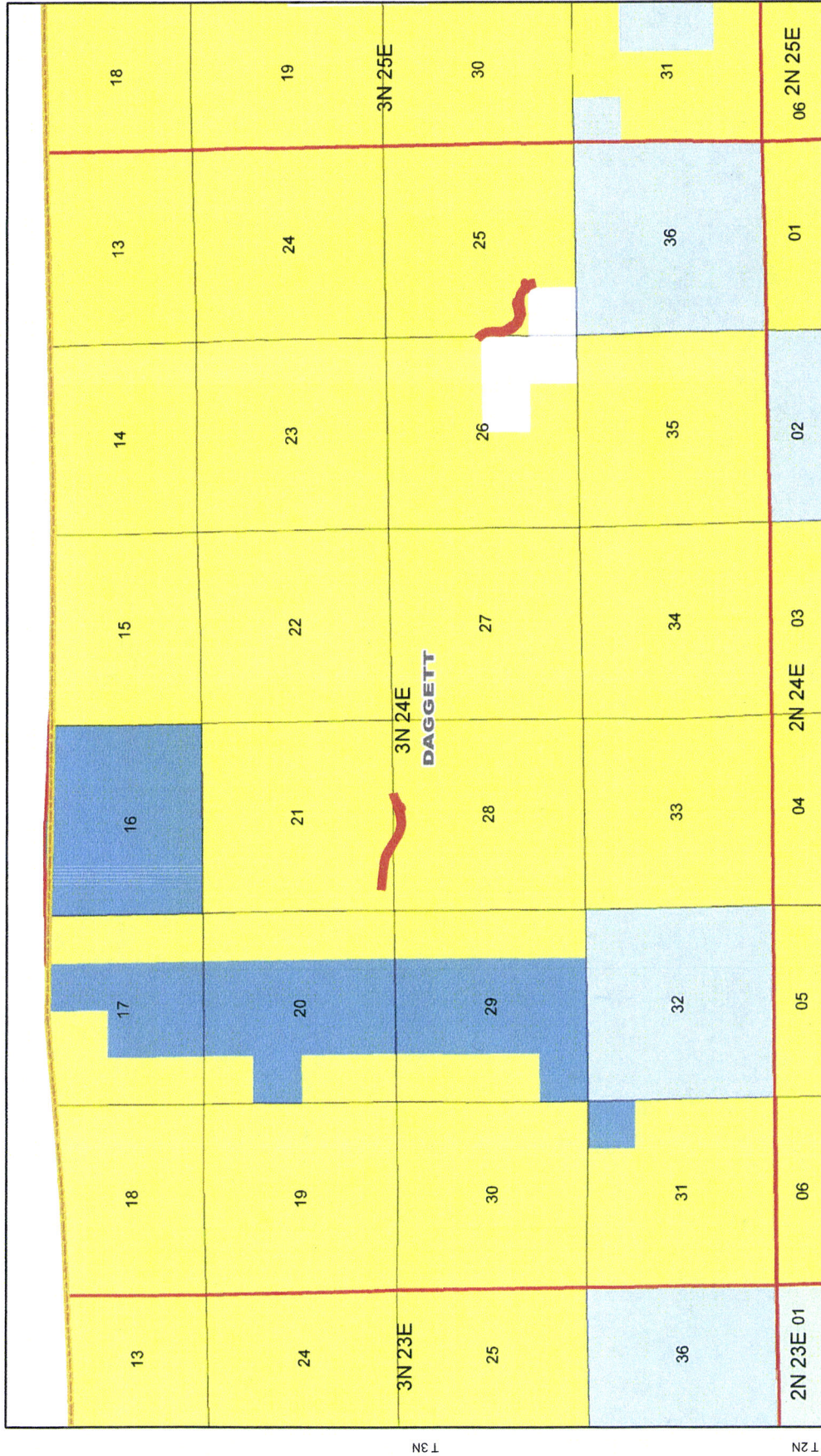


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March 25, 2014

# Browns Park Road - General Location Map

BLM



## Legend

— Proposed Project Area



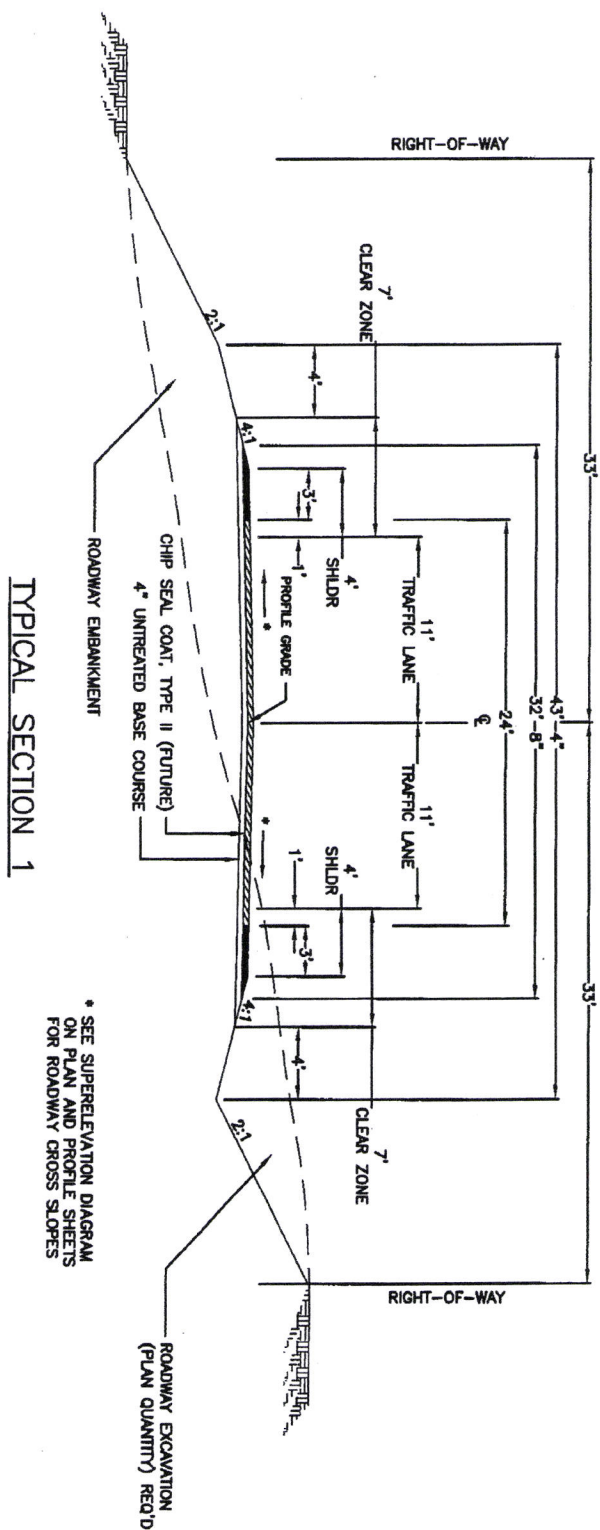
No warranty is made by the BLM for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

## **Appendix B. Engineered Drawings**

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SHEET No.	PROJECT	BROWNS PARK ROAD REALIGNMENT	CIVCO Engineering, Inc. 1256 W. 400 S. STE. 1 P.O. Box 1796, Vermil. Utah 84078 Telephone: (435) 789-5448 Fax: (435) 789-4445							
		BROWNS PARK TYPICAL								
	PROJECT NUMBER			APPROVED	DRAWN BY	JCH				
					DC CHECKED BY	BAR	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	
TS-01		TYPICAL SECTION								

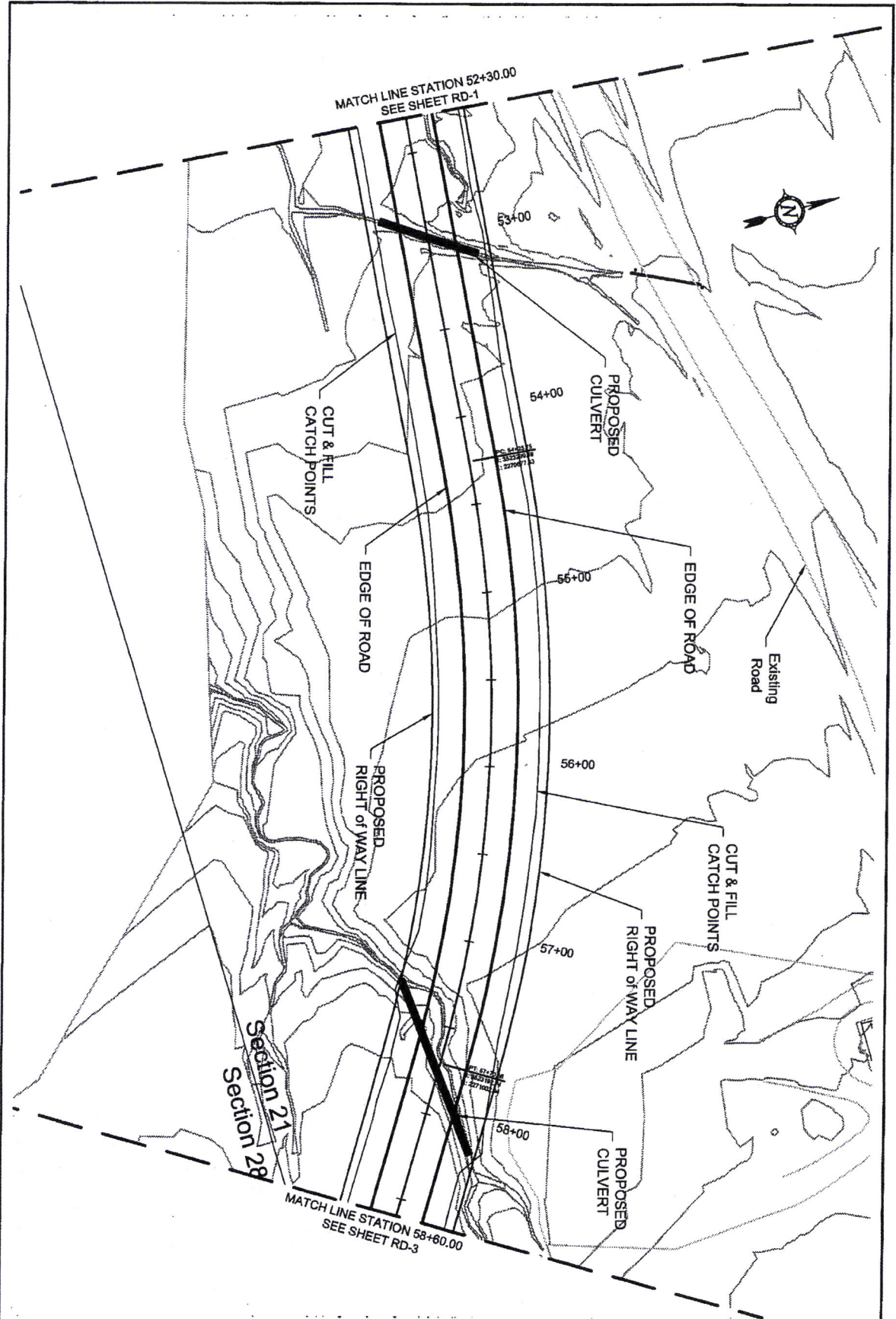


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	ROADWAY PLAN		QC CHECKED BY BAR	DATE	BY	REMARKS

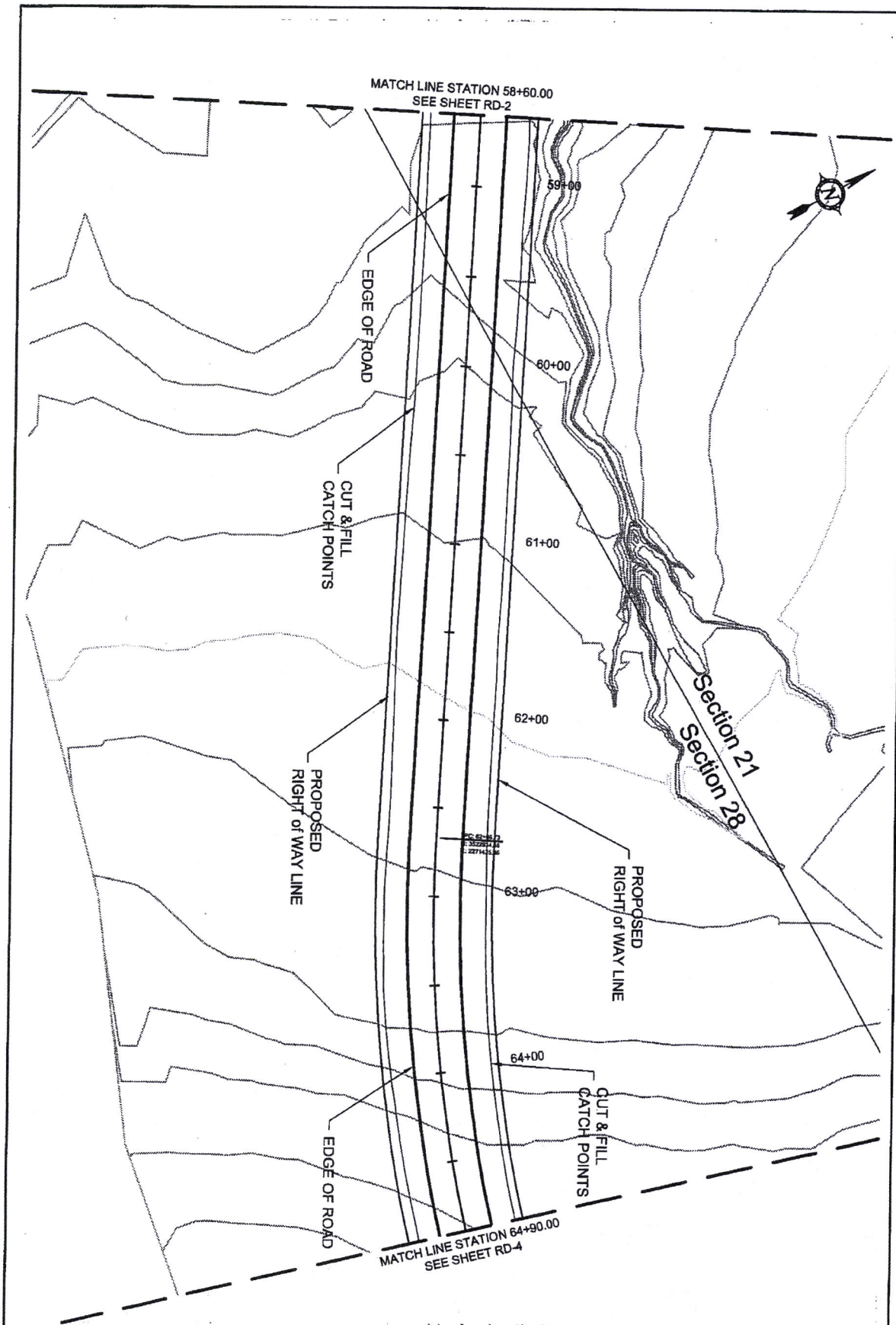
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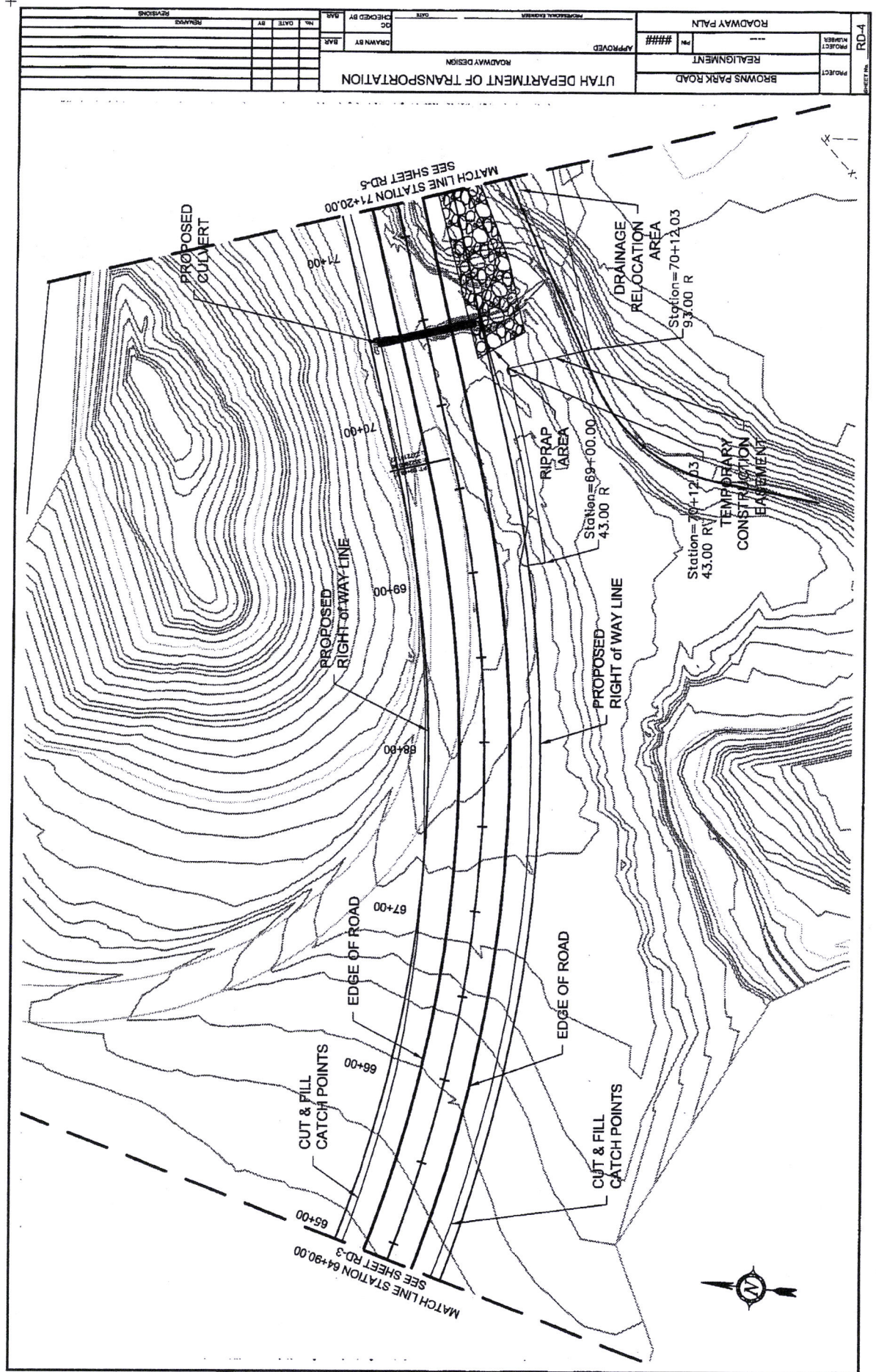


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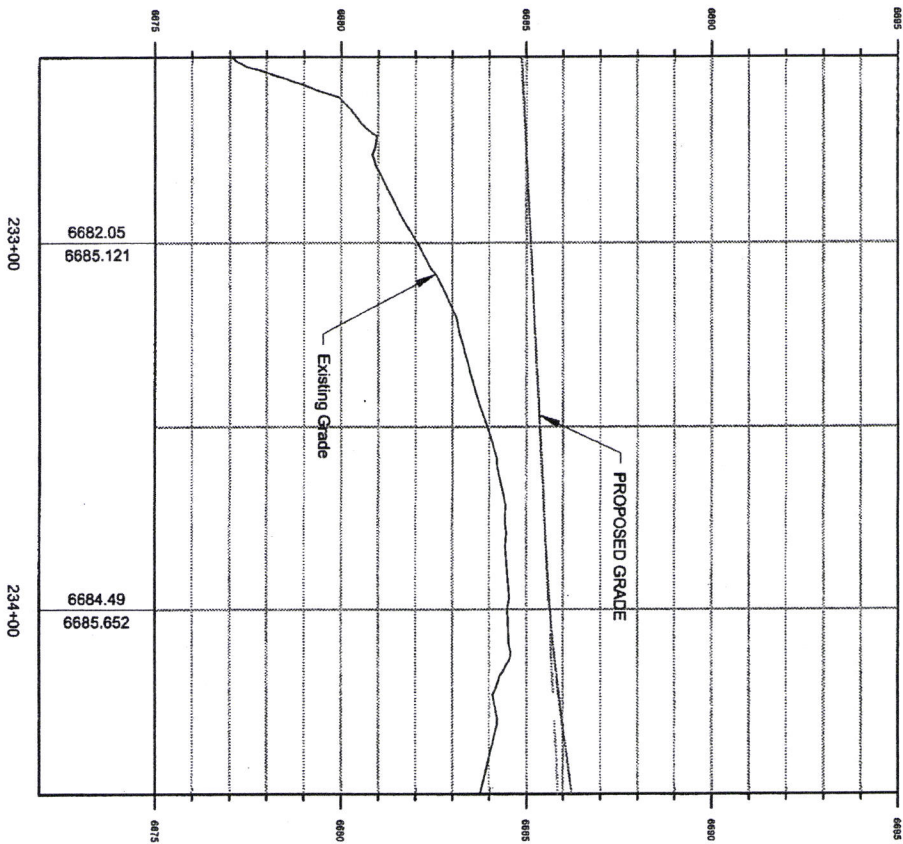
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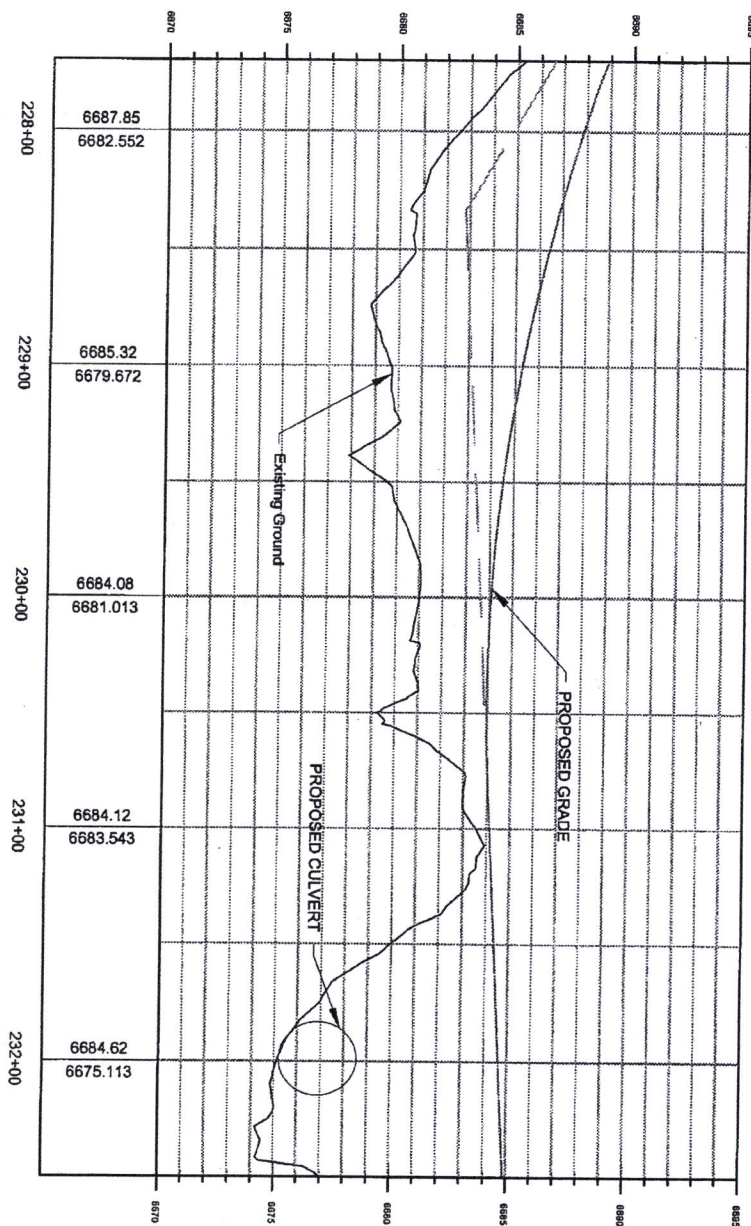




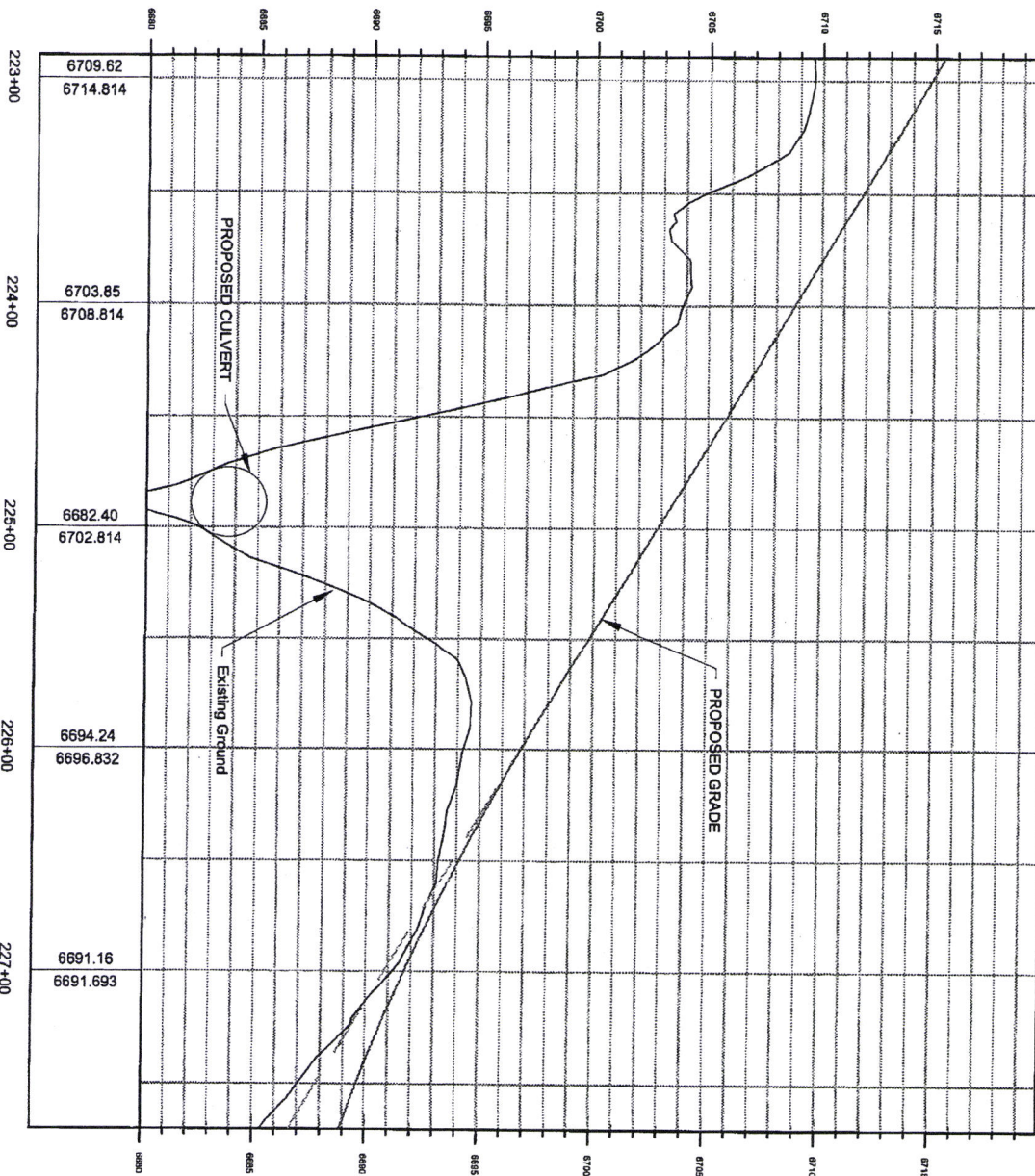




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REVISIONS									



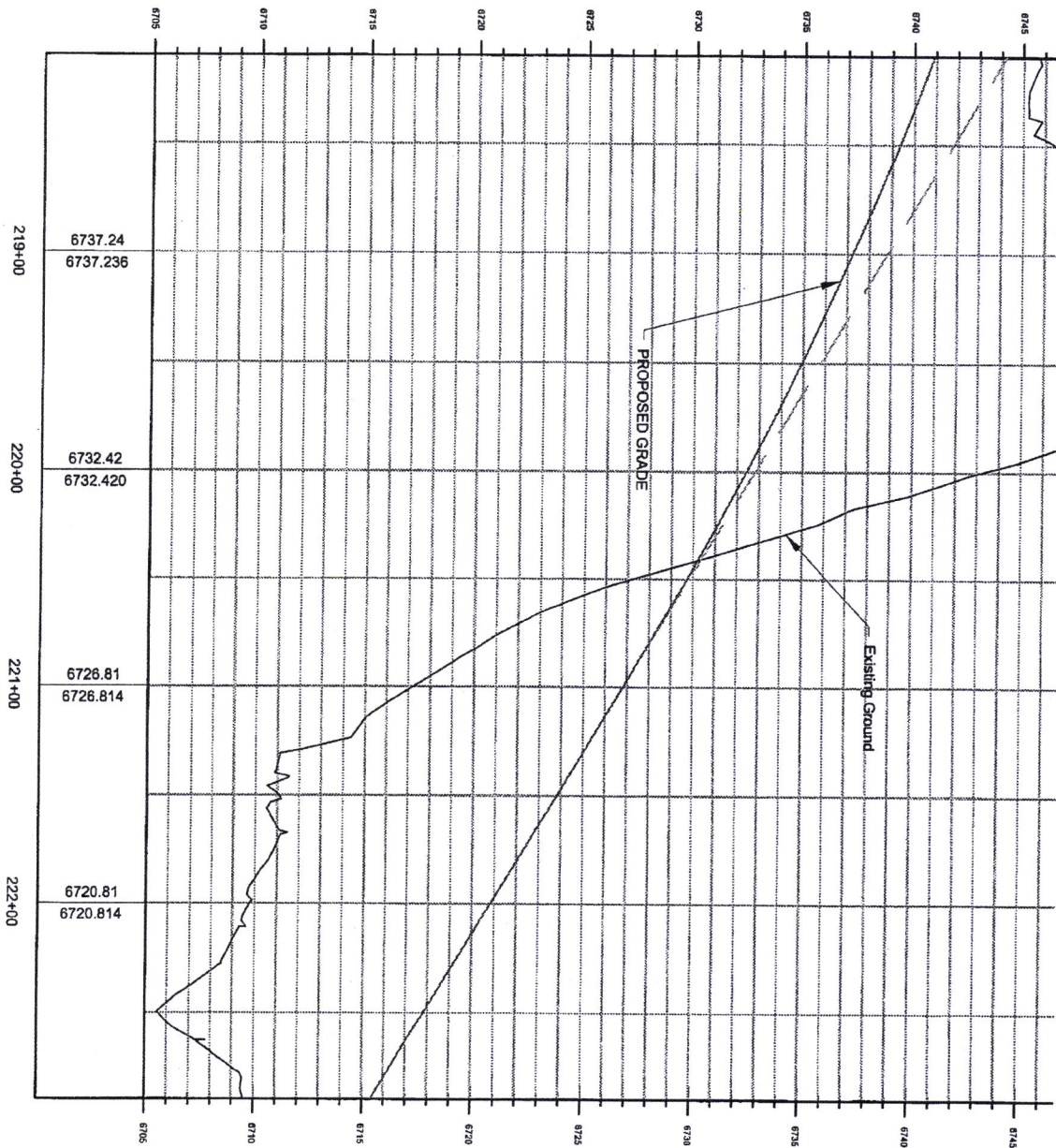
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	PROJECT NUMBER	<b>REALIGNMENT</b>					
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	APPROVED		PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER DATE				



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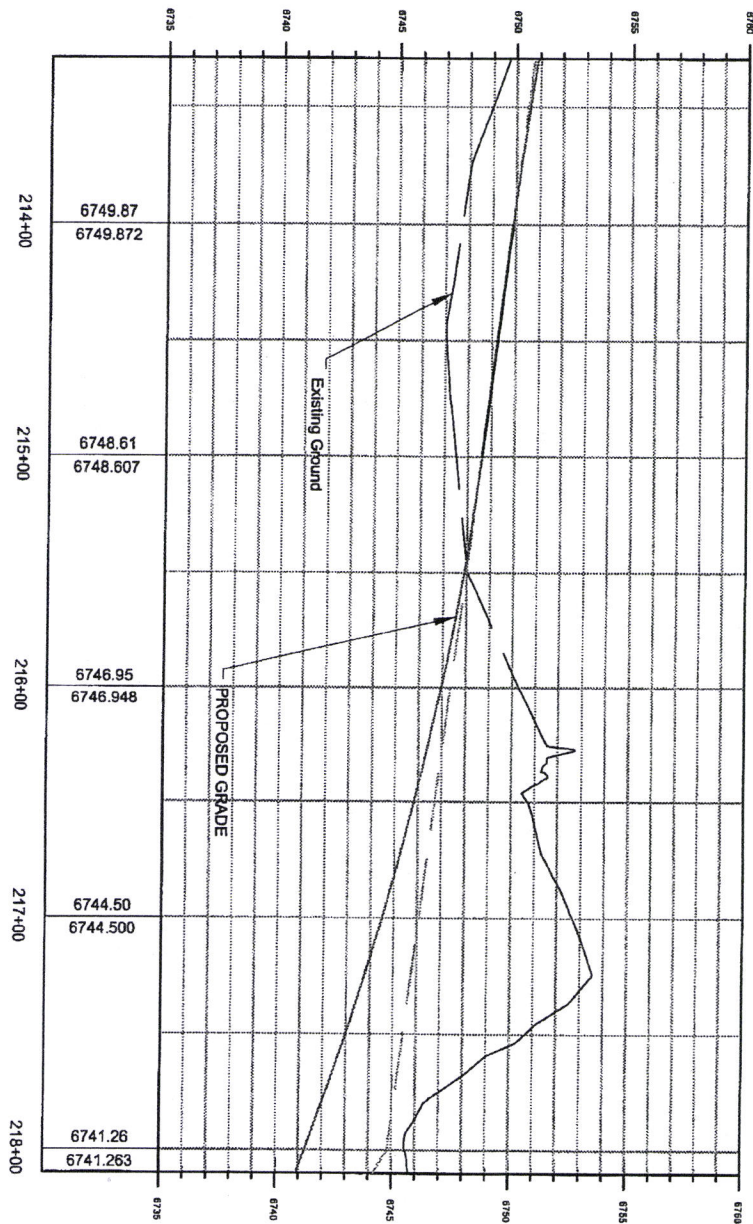
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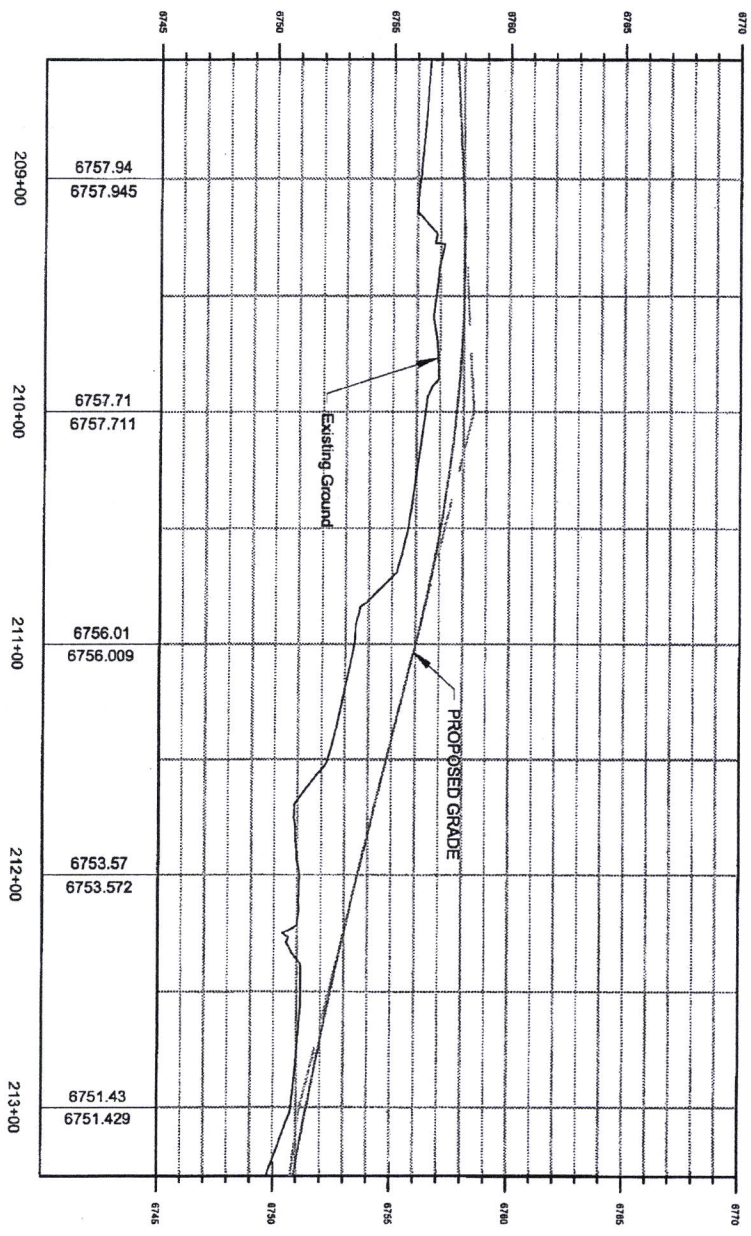
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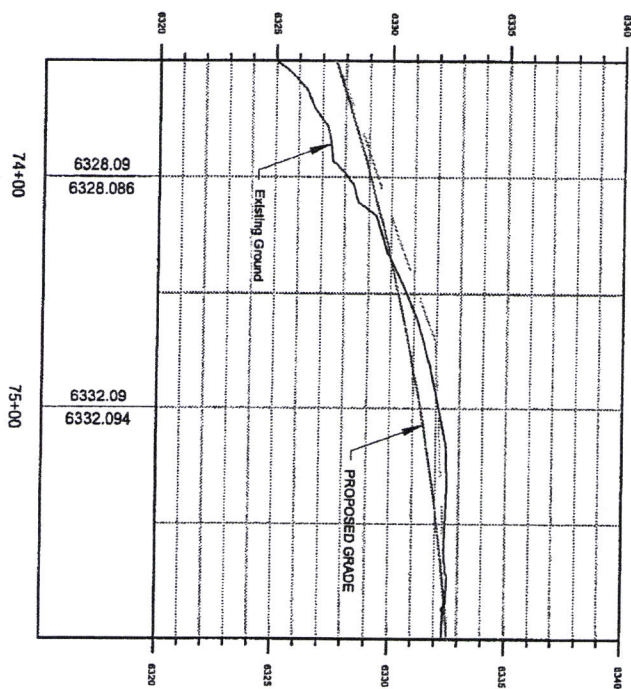




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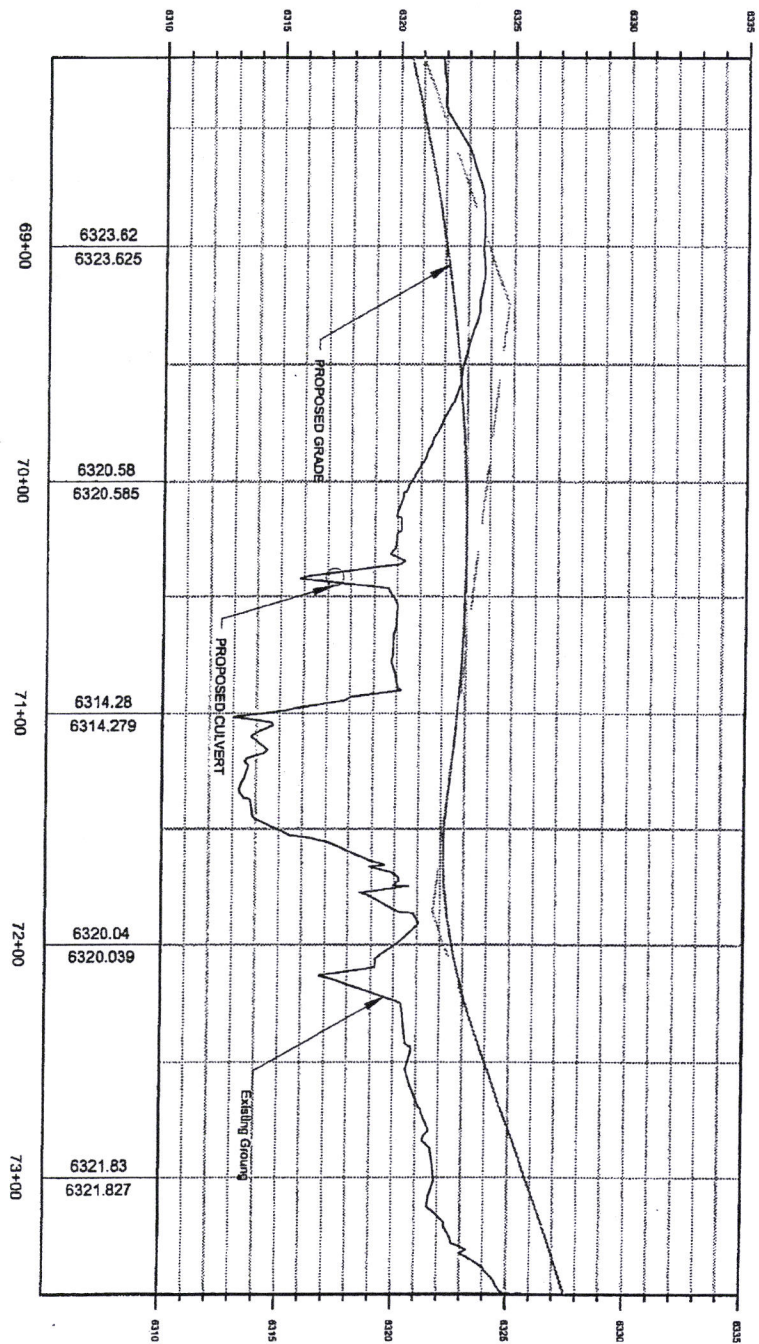


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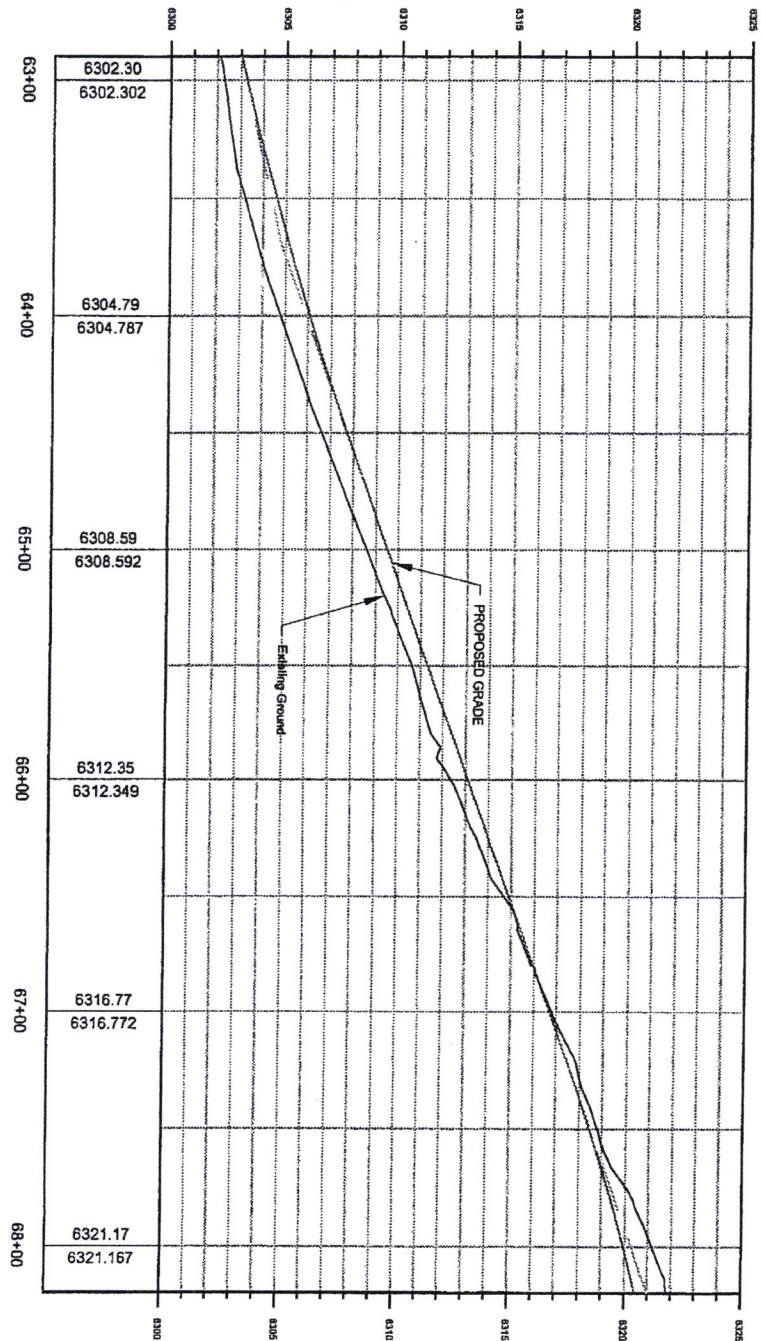
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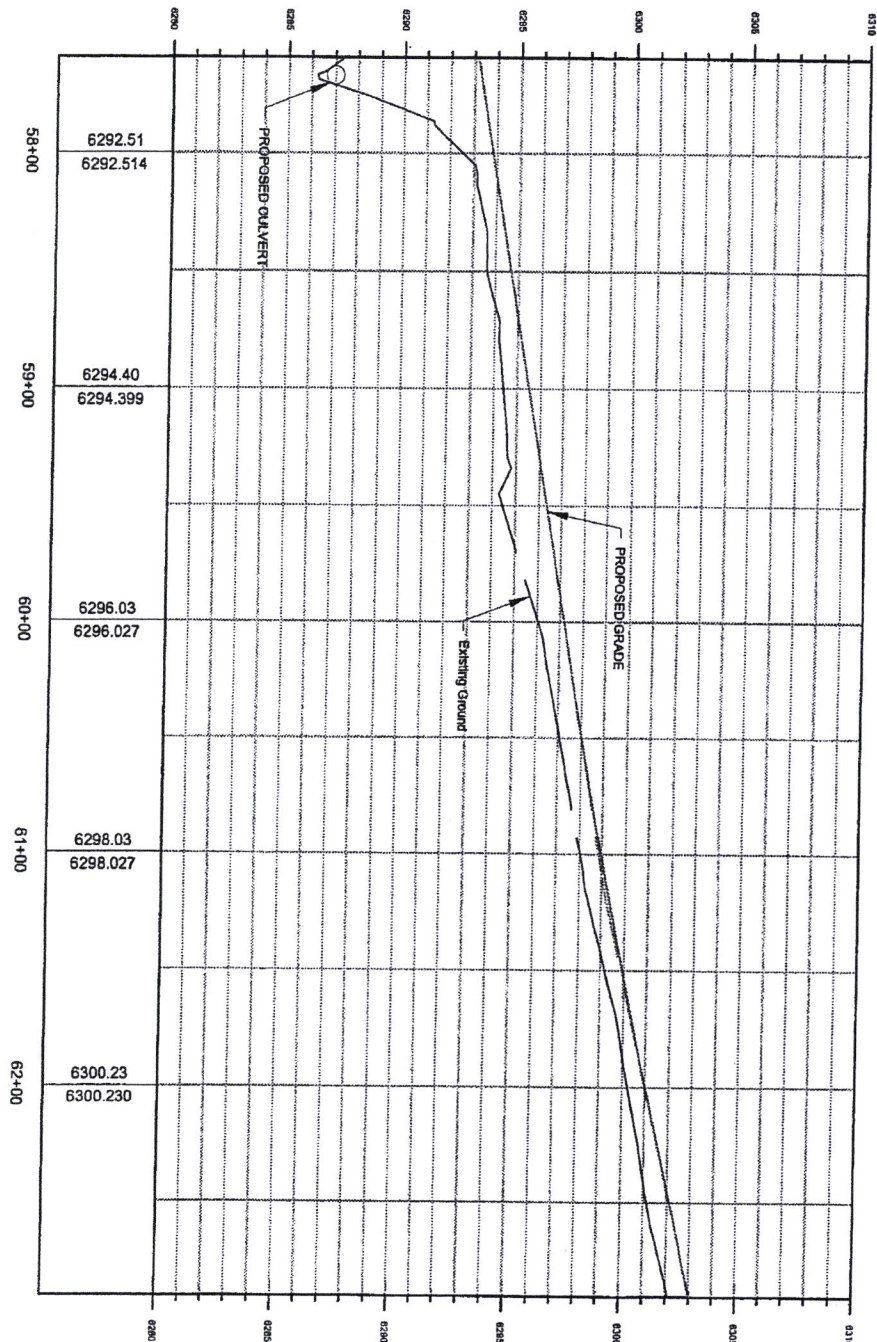


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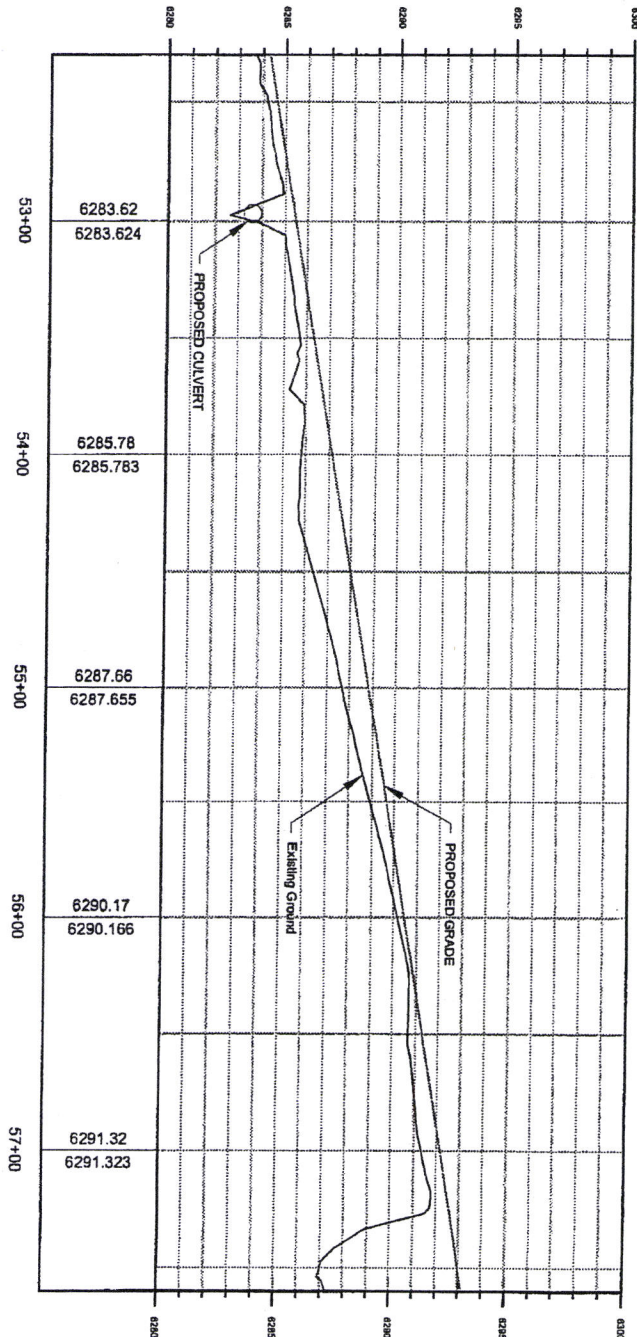


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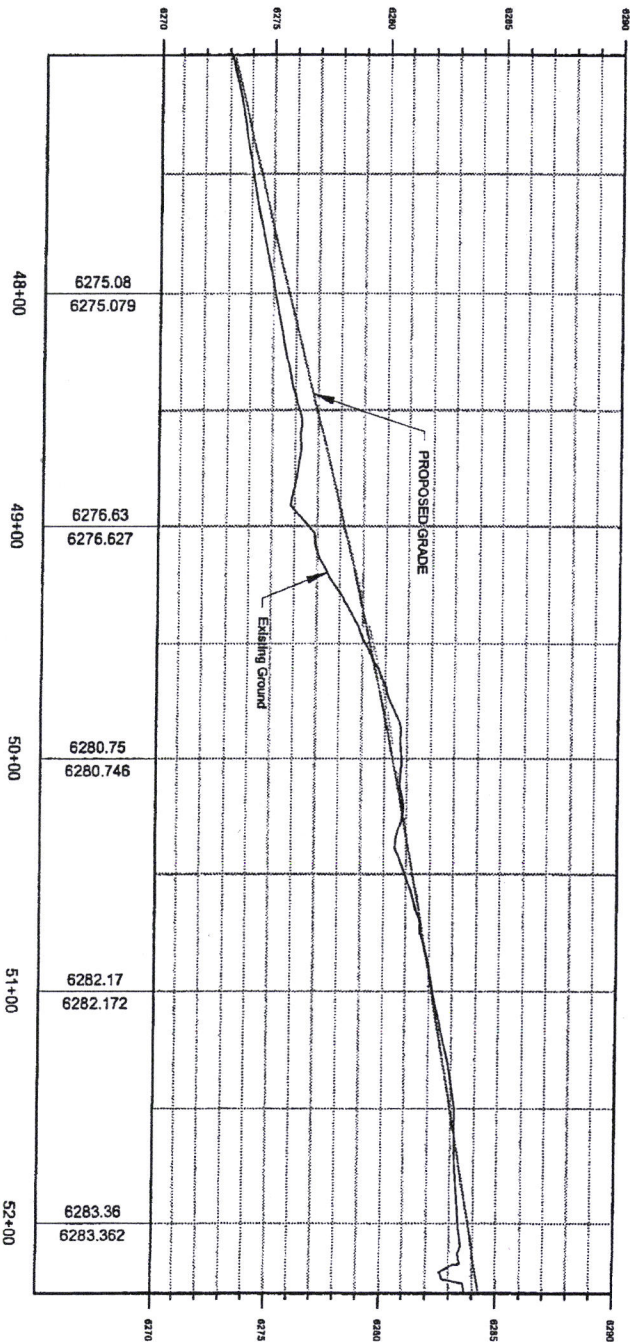
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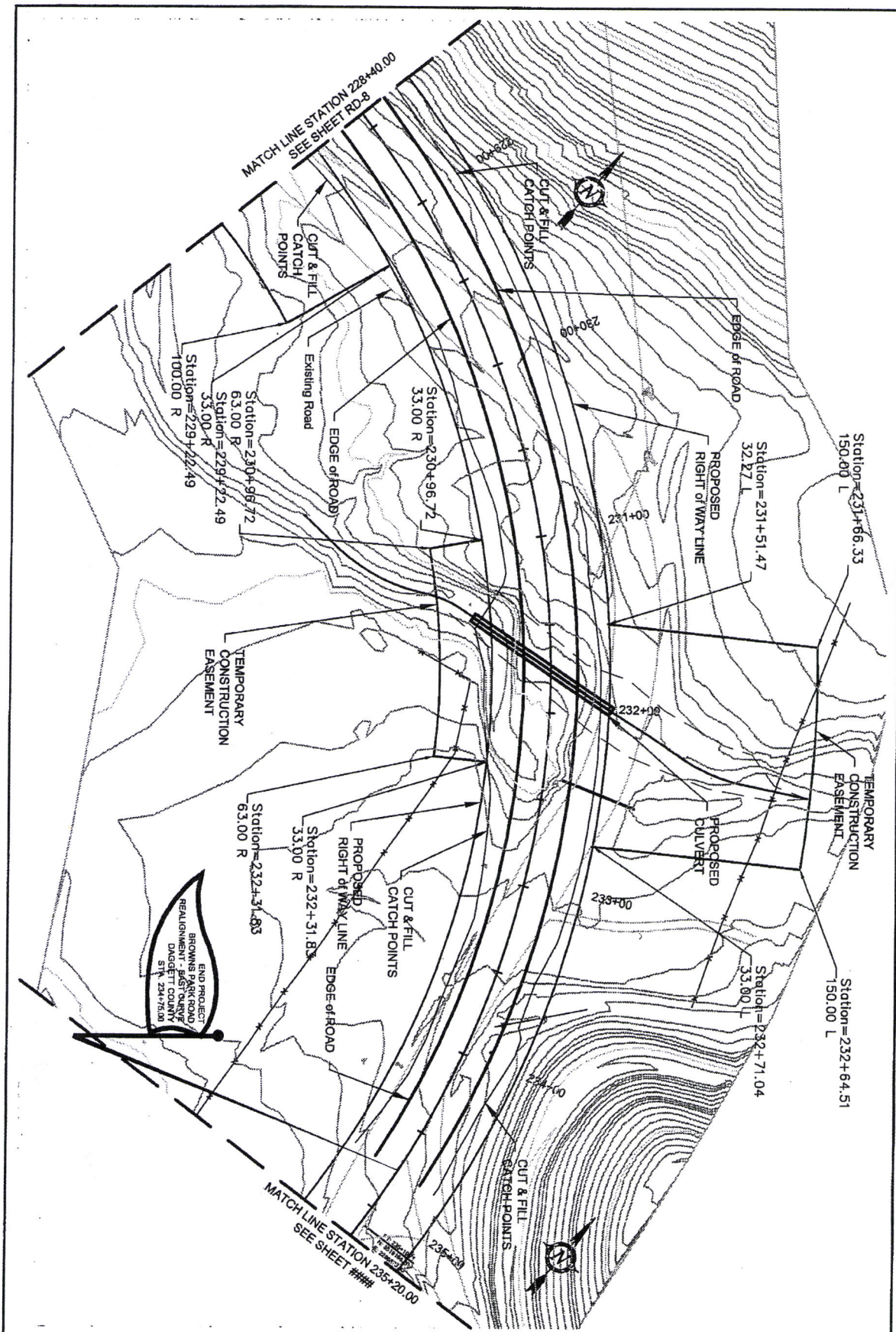
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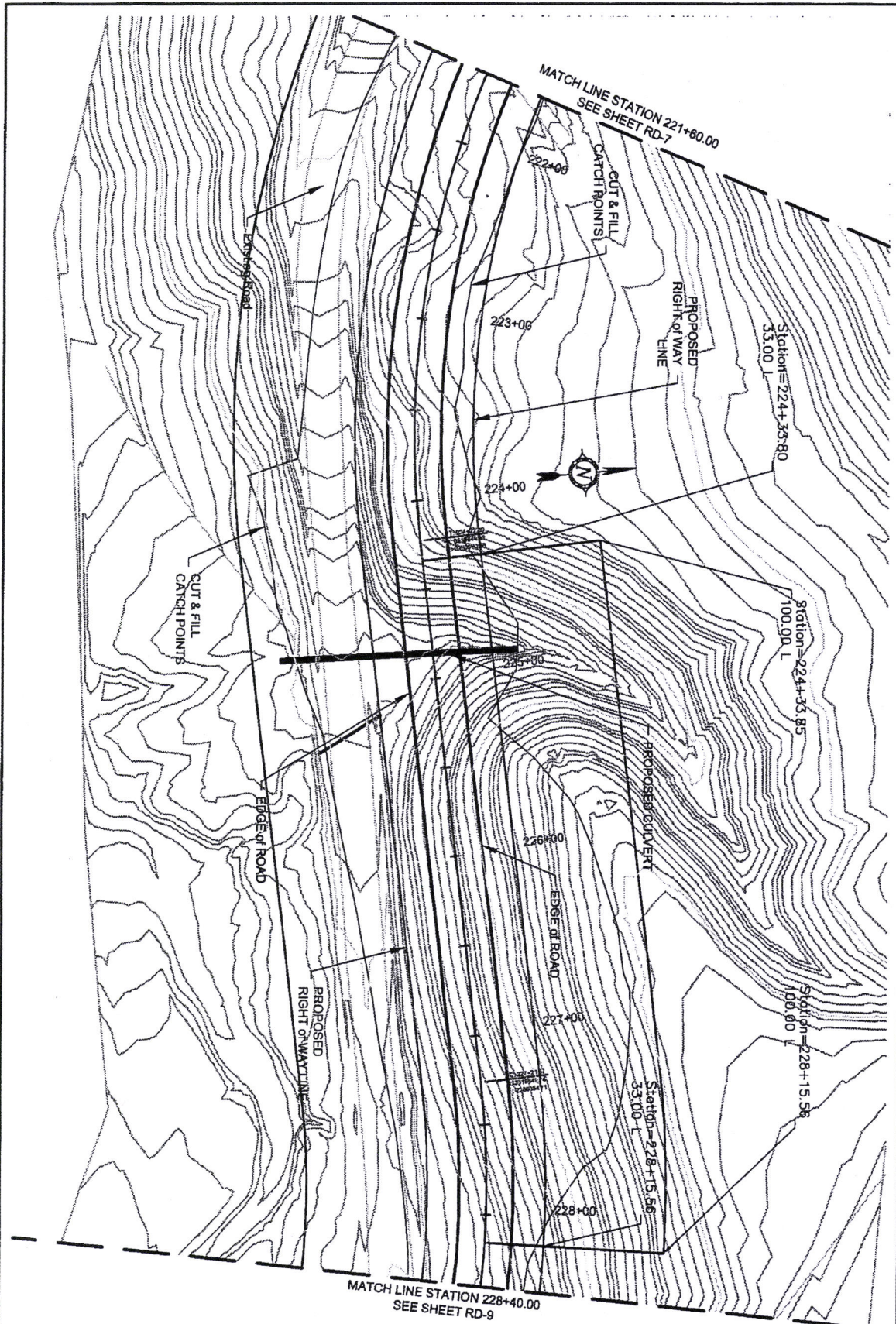
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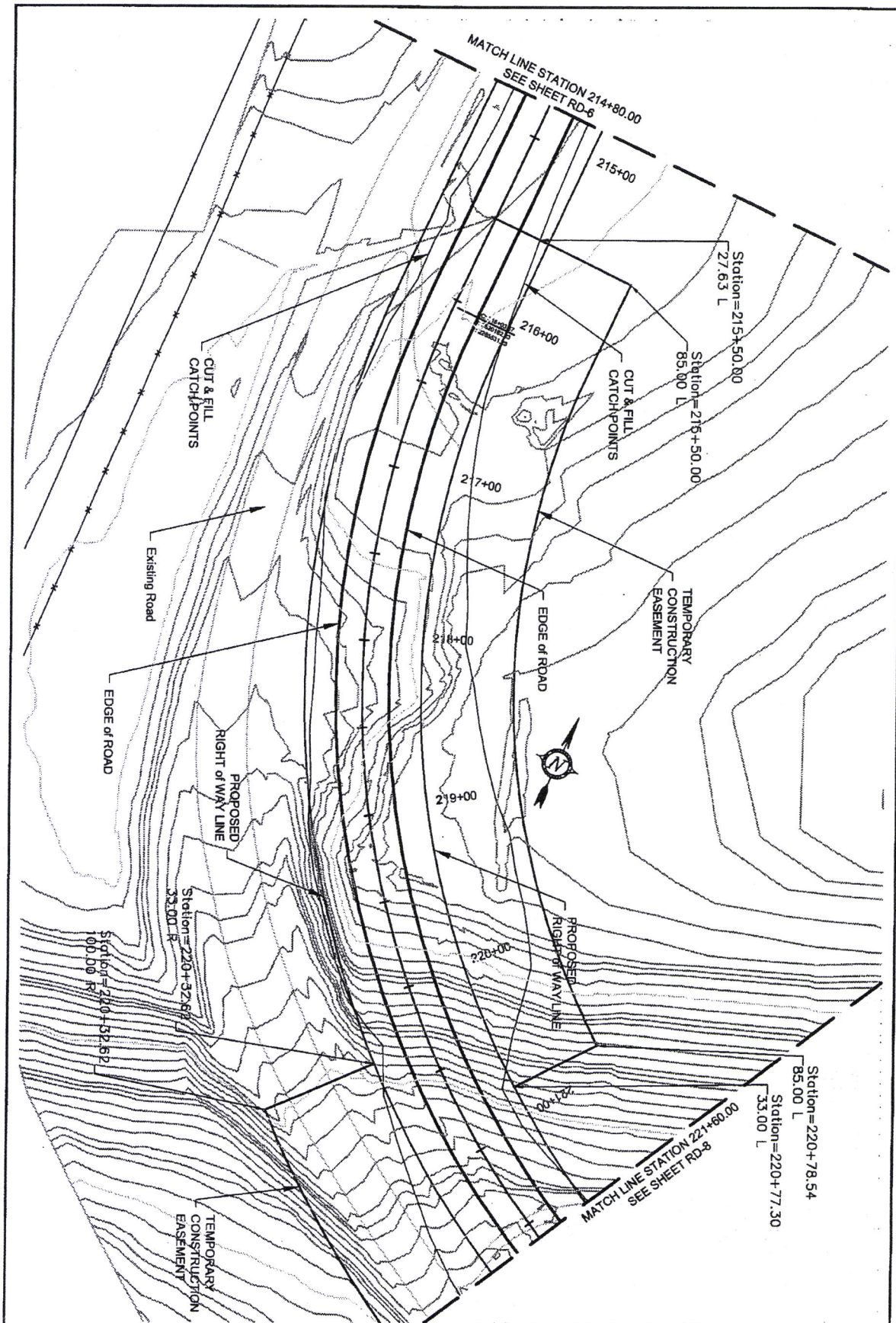
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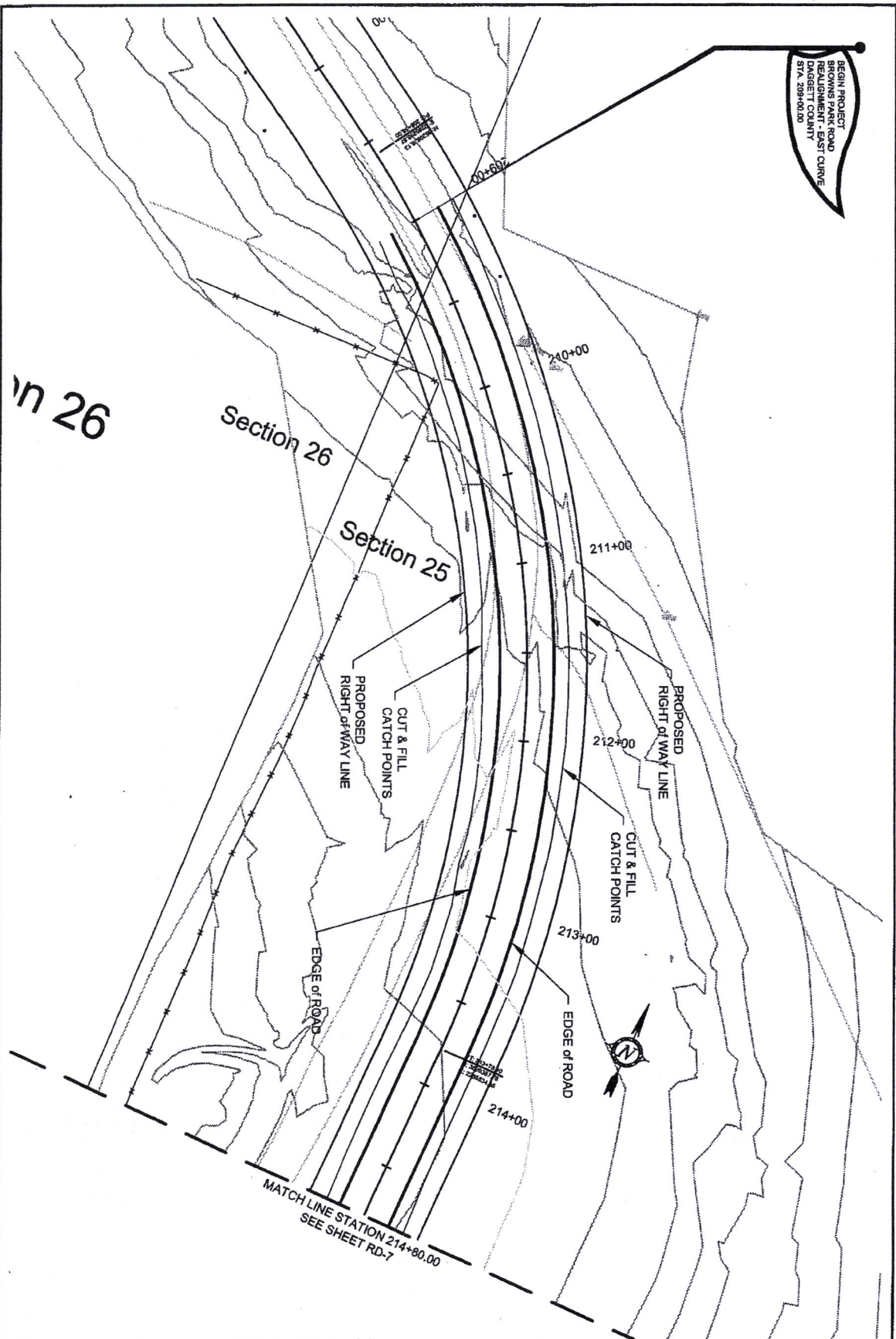




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	EAST CURVE ROADWAY PLAN		PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER	CHECKED BY	BAR	REVISIONS		



BEGIN PROJECT  
BROWNS PARK ROAD  
DAWSON COUNTY  
DAGGETT COUNTY  
STA. 209+00.00



SHEET NO. RD-6	PROJECT	BROWNS PARK ROAD		UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION							
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	DATE	PR	APPROVED	DRAWN BY	BAR	DATE	BY	REMARKS			
	EAST CURVE ROADWAY PLAN		PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER	CHECKED BY	BAR	DATE	REVISIONS				

## Appendix C. ID Team Checklist

**Project Title:** Realignment of Brown's Park Road

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112-EA

**File/Serial Number:** UTU-85070

**Project Leader:** Katie White Bull

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Dust emissions currently occur from vehicles utilizing the subject roads. It is anticipated that the incremental change from this project's alternatives would be so small as to be undetectable by both models and monitors.  No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions would occur during construction, however it is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NP	BLM Natural Areas	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NP	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	No eligible cultural properties are located within the proposed APE. "No Historic Properties Effected" 36CFR800.4(d)(1). SHPO Consultation completed 5/15/14.	Jimmie McKenzie	4/15/2014
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	No Native American concerns identified within the proposed APE. Proposed action will not restrict Native American access. Tribal consultations completed 6/21/2014.	Jimmie McKenzie	4/15/2014



Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
PI	Designated Areas:  Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Red Creek ACEC. Sensitive soils. Needs to be evaluated by Soils Specialist for impacts	Jason West	5/20/2014
NP	Designated Areas:  Wild and Scenic Rivers	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NP	Designated Areas:  Wilderness Study Areas	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives because none are present in or near the project area.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NI	Farmlands  (prime/unique)	No prime or unique farmlands, as identified by the NRCS, based on soil survey data for the county are located in the project area; therefore, this resource will not be carried forward for analysis.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	Fuels: the proposed activities may have an impact due to the increased chance of promoting invasive species; primarily <i>Bromus tectorum</i> . <i>Bromus tectorum</i> may become established through soil disturbance and may increase fire frequency in those areas. Applying the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines to any new surface disturbing areas and rehabilitation of the old road should prevent additional hazardous fuels. Fire: straightening and improving the road should have a positive impact on transportation to fires concerning safety and efficiency.	Blaine Tarbell	5/8/14
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	Sand and gravel resources are present in the project area, and one historic mineral material site is present (permit expired in 2007). In addition, natural gas is currently being both produced and stored in the immediate area. However, no adverse impact to geology, mineral resources, or energy production is expected in the project area as per the 2008 Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, the 2002 Vernal Planning Area Mineral Potential Report, GIS review, and an April 3, 2014 field visit..	Justin Snyder	4/30/2014



Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
PI:SOILS IP/NW: NI Veg: PI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	<p>Soils: The proposed action will affect approximately 2.0 acres of additional disturbance to soils identified as being sensitive soils, or prone to higher erosion rates than other soil types. NRCS has identified soils in this area as being mostly clay loams derived from weathering of shale material. The ecological site description of this area is shallow loamy.</p> <p>IP/NW: The applicant would be responsible for noxious weed and non-native invasive plant control along the proposed road realignment. With these methods in place, including mechanical and chemical removal (with an approved PUP), the Proposed Action is unlikely to contribute to the introduction or spread of these species in the Project Area.</p> <p>Veg: The proposed action would remove approximately 5.442 acres of vegetation. Of this total, 3.733 acres would remain disturbed until the road is no longer in use. The proposed action would also reclaim approximately 5.419 acres of the existing ROW, which would result in an increase in vegetation if reclamation measures are successful.</p>	Soils: James Hereford II, IP/NW and Veg: Christine Cimiluca	5/21/2014, 8/6/2014
NI	Lands/Access	<p>Pipelines paralleling and crossing the road will have to be taken into account. Daggett County would need to coordinate with the existing ROW holders during the implementation of the proposed action.</p> <p>BLM notified all potentially affected ROW holders of this proposal via letter; and provided Daggett County copies of the letters. Enterprise Products requests that Daggett County contact them 48 prior to construction.</p>	Katie White Bull	5/7/2014
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	No lands with wilderness characteristics are present in the project area pre the Vernal RMP and ongoing inventory data.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
PI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed project would affect the Clay Basin Allotment. Potential impacts would include: loss of forage, loss of AUMs, introduction of invasive species, i.e, halogeton, cheatgrass and Russian thistle, increase in vehicle-livestock collisions and reduced or altered livestock movement patterns.	Alec Bryan	5/21/2014

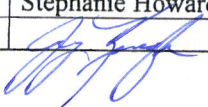
Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Paleontology	A paleo walkover was performed by BLM on April 3, 2014. Alluvium cover is present at the surface and no fossils were found.	Elizabeth Gamber	4/8/2013
NI	Plants:  BLM Sensitive	There is potential habitat for the following UT BLM Sensitive species in the Project Area: stemless penstemon ( <i>Penstemon acaulis</i> var. <i>acaulis</i> ). However, this species has not been documented in the Project Area, per BLM GIS review, and is unlikely to be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action.	Christine Cimiluca	8/6/2014
NI	Plants:  Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	There are no documented individuals or populations of TECP plant species in the Project Area, per BLM GIS review. There is no mapped potential or critical habitat for TECP in the Project Area per BLM GIS review. The mapped riparian area in the Project Area, which could be suitable habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses ( <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> ). However, an onsite investigation showed that this area is not likely to be suitable habitat for the species, and it is unlikely to be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action.	Christine Cimiluca	8/6/2014
NI	Plants:  Wetland/Riparian	The proposed action would occur close to a mapped riparian area per BLM GIS review. An onsite investigation of the proposed road crossing near this area showed that the proposal is unlikely to have an impact on these areas.	Christine Cimiluca	8/6/2014
NI	Recreation	No impacts to recreation. Road will remain open during construction. Access to Green River and John Jarvie Historic Ranch will still be consistent.	Jason West	5/20/2014
NI	Socio-Economics	No impact to the social or economic status of the county or nearby communities would occur from this project due to its small size in relation to ongoing development throughout the Basin.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NI	Visual Resources	Realignment will not affect VRM current road exists in the landscape.	Jason West	5/20/2014



Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Wastes  (hazardous/solid)	<i>Hazardous Waste:</i> No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold Wastes (hazardous or planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, solid) transported, or disposed of in association with the project.  <i>Solid Wastes:</i> Trash would be confined in a covered container and hauled to an approved landfill. Burning of waste or oil would not be done. Human waste would be contained and be disposed of at an approved sewage treatment facility.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NP	Water:  Floodplains	None are present in the project area per the Vernal Field Office RMP and GIS review.	Katie White Bull	3/25/14
NI	Water:  Groundwater Quality	This project will not adversely affect groundwater.	Elizabeth Gamber	4/8/2014
NI	Water:  Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	Current hydrological conditions in the area will not be affected by the small amount of disturbance that are proposed for this project on BLM lands.	James Hereford II	4/14/2014
NI	Water:  Surface Water Quality	Surface water quality in the area will not be affected by the small amount of surface disturbance in the proposed action.	James Hereford II	4/14/2014
NI	Water:  Waters of the U.S.	No waters of the U.S. will be affected by the current proposed action.	James Hereford II	4/14/2014
NP	Wild Horses	There are no wild horse herd areas present within the project location	Dusty Carpenter	5/08/2014
NI	Wildlife:  Migratory Birds  (including raptors)	Migratory birds may utilize the surrounding area; however, impacts during nesting are unlikely to occur as the existing road is heavily trafficked. Birds are likely to utilize adjacent, suitable, habitats. There are no known raptor nests located within ½ mile of the project area.	Brandon McDonald	4/7/14
NI	Wildlife:  Non-USFWS Designated	The BLM has identified the project area as being within crucial deer and elk winter habitat; however, project activities are not anticipated to affect the population or individual big game. It is likely deer and elk will utilize adjacent suitable habitats.	Brandon McDonald	4/7/14



Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
PI	Wildlife:  Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	The BLM and UDWR identify the project area as being within occupied sage-grouse habitat. A mitigation measure (timing limitation) will be applied to the project. This project will comply with WO-2014-043.	Brandon McDonald	4/7/14
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	The proposed action will have no impact to forest and woodland resources.	David Palmer	05/01/14

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	Stephanie Howard	9/8/2014	
Authorized Officer		9-15-2014	

## **Appendix D. Response Letters**



Northwest Rockies  
Chevron Pipe Line Company  
2875 S Decker Lake Drive, Ste 150  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
Tel 801-975-2334  
Fax 801-975-2333  
Tom Denison@Chevron.com

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2014

BLM VERNAL, UTAH

May 30, 2014

Jerry Kenczka  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Green River District  
Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, UT 84078

**Notice of Daggett County application. Chevron Pipe Line Company ROW # UTU-54789**

Dear Mr. Kenczka:

Thank you for advising us of Daggett County's plans to realign two (2) curves on Browns Park Road, located at T. 3 N., R. 24 E., Section's 21, 25, 26, and 28 Salt Lake Meridian.

As you are aware, CPL operates and maintains two pipelines that traverse the property. The pipelines are maintained in accordance with the Department of Transportation Pipeline Safety Regulations (40 CFR 195) and must be protected from external damage at all times.

Accordingly, we are providing you with the following information along with the enclosed pipeline crossing standards to assist you in planning your project:

1. CPL has a right-of-way which crosses the subject property proposed for development/improvement. The easement in particular provides that all rights granted therein shall not be impaired or interfered with. In addition, CPL's pipelines must be protected from external damage at all times.
2. Specific details of any foreign line crossings (water, sewer, power, telephone, natural gas lines, etc.) should be worked out in advance with CPL. It is recommended that all buried utility lines crossing CPL's pipeline maintain a minimum of 24 inches between the pipeline and the utility line. The utility shall maintain the same depth of cover across the entire right-of-way. At no time shall the clearance between CPL's pipeline and the utility be less than 12 inches except where approval is granted from the Field Team Leader or designee for allowable D. O. T. specifications. Utility poles will not be permitted within CPL's right-of-way. **Any crossing will require a line crossing agreement to be signed by the owner/developer.**



3. CPL requests that detailed engineering drawings showing proposed finished grades, building locations and layout of utilities be submitted for CPL's review and approval. The detail required shall include plan and profile view drawings showing the location of CPL's pipeline in relationship to any utility crossings and/or finished grade improvements.
4. Proper ground cover over our pipeline is required for maintaining a safe pipeline operation. **Ground cover must meet current Department of Transportation regulations specified in CFR 49, Parts 195.200, 195.210, and 195.248.** At the present time, cover over our pipeline through this development is not known. CPL personnel will assist the owner/developer in locating the pipeline and obtaining depth measurements. If it is determined by the CPL Engineering Department that adequate cover cannot be reached in the facility design especially as it relates to the crossing of the pipelines by heavy equipment, CPL would then require its lines to be lowered or additional fill placed over the lines. This work will be at the expense of the owner/developer to the satisfaction of CPL.
5. CPL's pipelines are cathodically protected. If the owner/developer is proposing any metal pipes or structures in the vicinity of the right-of-way, it is absolutely necessary that arrangements be made with CPL for the protection of those facilities in order to prevent electrical interference problems.
6. Under no circumstances will CPL allow any work on its easement prior to discussing line locations with the contractors and marking its line. CPL shall be notified a week in advance of any and all work on our pipeline right-of-way.

It is recommended that Daggett County contact a Chevron representative to more closely examine the project area and discuss the road design and proposed project. Chevron's local Facility Inspector is Joseph Nielsen. Joe can be reached at (970) 675-3778. You may also call me at 801-975-2334 for more information concerning the Chevron Right-of-Way.

Sincerely,



Tom Denison  
Land Representative

Enclosure

cc:

Joe Nielsen/ CPL

Daggett County  
P.O. Box 219  
Manila, UT 84046

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

---

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Browns Park Road Realignment (UTU-85070)**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 781-4400  
(435) 781-4410

**BLM**



# **Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Browns Park Road Realignment (UTU-85070)**

Prepared by  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vernal, Utah**



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# **Chapter 1. Finding of No Significant Impact**

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## 1.1. Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that Daggett County's Browns Park Road Realignment Project as set forth in Chapter 2 – Proposed Action, EA No. DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112 will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required

## 1.2. Signatures:

Approved by:



Authorized Officer

SEP 15 2014

Date



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Decision Record - Memorandum  
Browns Park Road Realignment (UTU-85070)**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 781-4400  
(435) 781-4410



# **Decision Record - Memorandum**

## **Browns Park Road Realignment (UTU-85070)**

Prepared by  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vernal, Utah**

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# **Chapter 1. Browns Park Road Realignment**



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## **1.1. Selected Action**

It is my decision to authorize Daggett County's request to amend the Title V road right-of-way (ROW) for an existing class "B" county road known as Brown's Park Road (County road system #1364) to provide safe access to the Clay Basin gas operation, recreational access to the Green River and for residence that live in the area as discussed in Alternative A — Proposed Action located in chapter 2 of EA document DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0112-EA with the mitigation analyzed in the subsections of Section 4.1 located in Chapter 4. This decision is subject to the implementation of the below compliance and monitoring and terms/conditions/stipulations.

## **1.2. Authorities**

The authority for this decision is contained in Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended through September 1999, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).

## **1.3. Compliance and Monitoring**

Compliance and monitoring is included with the Terms / Conditions / Stipulations section of this Decision.

## **1.4. Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:**

- No surface disturbing activities would be allowed from March 1 – June 15 to minimize impacts during sage-grouse brooding periods.
- The company shall control noxious and invasive weeds by mechanical and chemical treatments to help reduce the bare ground cover and help reduce erosion rates until the site can be reclaimed with native vegetation
- If chemicals are going to be used a Pesticide Use Proposal shall be submitted to the Vernal BLM botanist for approval.
- The company should also implement storm water control mechanisms to help reduce the amount of erosion that will result from the surface disturbing action. As explained the area is highly prone to erosion due to the nature of the environment.
- All care should take place to keep erosion potentials low and to keep all the sediment within the proposed action.
- Silt fencing and other techniques are recommended to help prevent soils leaving the site and flowing down gradient into the adjacent Red Creek or Clay Basin creek and eventually the Green River.
- Dirt work shall only take place during dry conditions.
- Disturbed vegetation areas would be re-seeded as soon as feasible with a seed mix approved by the Authorized Officer and in conformance with the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.

- Disturbed vegetation areas would be re-seeded as soon as feasible with a seed mix approved by the Authorized Officer and in conformance with the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.
- To the extent feasible, blading of vegetative cover should be minimized and root structures left intact.
- The Browns Park Road EIS (BLM, 2006) page 132 suggests that if more than 14 vehicle-livestock collisions are reported by 2020, fencing might be necessary where the road traverses BLM rangelands.
- Culverts for livestock and wildlife could also be used to reduce collision rates.

## **1.5. Plan Conformance and Consistency:**

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows Right-Of-Ways (ROW) on public lands in accordance with the Realty Decisions. It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with any decisions throughout the plan.

In May 1997 the Utah BLM published *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM Lands in Utah* (BLM 1997). These standards for rangeland health were developed to ensure that various services, activities, and all renewable resources of the land are environmentally sustainable, and that non-renewable resources are recovered in ways that ensure the long-term health of the land managed by the BLM. The Proposed Action and alternatives carried through in this assessment are consistent with these standards. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, natural ecosystems, and water quality.

### **Issue Identification:**

Identification of issue(s) for this assessment was accomplished internally by considering any resources that could be affected by implementation of one of the alternatives.

### **Alternatives Considered:**

No Action Alternative. Under the Alternative B, Daggett County's proposed project involving federal land would not be authorized. An amended federal access would be denied, thus Daggett County's plan would not be realized. Daggett County could still utilize the existing ROW for the Brown's Park road; however they would not be allowed to upgrade or improve any portion of the roads on federal land. As such, the No Action Alternative would not cause any new surface disturbance. Ongoing management of federal land within the project area would continue at current trends.

### **Rationale for Decision:**

The Selected Alternative described in this document is in conformance with the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (BLM 2008). The ROD allows for the issuance of rights-of-way. The Selected Alternative will not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.



Onsite visits were conducted by Vernal Field Office Personnel. The onsite inspections do not indicate that any other locations be proposed for analysis. In addition, all proposed mitigation has been carried forward into the Decision.

## 1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

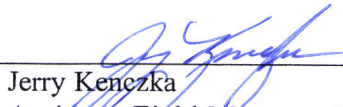
If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

### Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

## 1.7. Authorizing Official:

  
Jerry Kenczka  
Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals

SEP 15 2014  
Date

## 1.8. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

Katie White Bull  
Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East

Vernal, Utah 84078  
435-781-4400